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The nativity of Jesus Christ

Theophany
PARISH COUNCIL

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Rhoda Economos
John Nenopoulos

Greek School
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Katerina Tsiantoulas
Tina Boutas

G.O.Y.A.
Jon Buterbaugh

J.O.Y. & H.O.P.E.
Irena Mroz
Paula Tsitsopoulos

OPA! Group
Pegi Ciulla

Koliva
Ladies Philoptochos

Coffee Hour
Tina Boutas

Shut-In Visitations
Ladies Philoptochos

Basketball
Stephen Passias

Dance Group
Jon & Penny Buterbaugh

Oratorical Festival
Rhoda Economos

Bookstore
Pegi Ciulla
Linda Sakelaris Poole
Stephen Savas
Joanna Stellakis

Webmaster
George Theodossiou
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The following is a reprint of my article included in the December ’08-January ’09 issue of the bulletin.

Beloved brethren in Christ,

As we approach the Nativity of our Lord in the flesh, I wish to share with you some spiritual food regarding this holy season.

I don’t need to go into great detail about the deterioration of the “Christmas season,” which for the most part, no longer includes Christ. Simply look around at the typical decorations in homes and stores. What we tend to see more than anything are snowmen, Santa Clauses, reindeer, and other such “Christ-less” themes. As Orthodox Christians, we should strive to make Christ the major theme of the season, simply because this is His season – not something that belongs to a mythical world of snowy make-believe. One may ask, what is so wrong with all the joyful things that surround us that make Christmas so special for our children? Well, let’s explore this.

How do we ensure that our children understand what all the preparations and decorations are really about? Do we consider that they may be totally surprised to realize someday, that Christmas has to do with the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ in the flesh for the redemption of mankind? Are we, perhaps, of the persuasion that children shouldn’t be burdened with theology, and should be allowed to have a “magical Christmas”? Have we made the tragic mistake of not bringing them to church on Christmas Day to truly celebrate the Lord’s birth, but instead, stayed home to eat a special breakfast and open presents?

Now, before we jump to conclusions that Fr. Anthony thinks there shouldn’t be anything fun about Christmas, let us clarify. Yes, the anticipation of the birth of our Lord should be a special and exciting time, which is exactly why the Church has a 40 day period of preparation. The Nativity Fast is a joyful vigil which spiritually prepares us for this extraordinary event of God becoming man. Decorating our homes, baking special sweets, playing the classic Christmas carols, watching age appropriate films regarding the Christmas story – these are all the things that make Christmas special for children. It is up to us as parents to keep these things alive in the preparation for, and celebration of Christmas. We can still make Christmastime fun and special, while at the same keeping it Christian.

Furthermore, we can “christianize,” so to speak, so many aspects of Christmas in order to bring appropriate relevancy to them. For instance, the idea of having been good or bad during the year can pave the way for children to learn about repentance. They should be taught to strive to be good for God – not Santa Claus, because it is God who loves and forgives us, and not those fellows in the shopping malls and department stores. We could focus on purchasing decorations and tree ornaments that reflect the religious aspect of the season as much as possible. We could remind our children that all the beautiful Christmas lights we see remind us of Christ, the Light of the World, who is about to come to us as a human baby. We definitely could work at playing-down the commercial aspect of Christmas, so that the gifts under the tree don’t take center stage in the feast. In fact, besides the focus on what we receive, how many of us are incorporating charitable giving and good works during our preparation for the Nativity of Christ? Remember, during all fast periods our Church teaches that we should include intensified prayer and good works, so that our fasting is not in vain.

The bottom line is, no matter how much the retail world seeks to create its own version of the “holiday season,” we Orthodox Christians have much control in keeping Christ central in our homes during the Christmas season. With Christ as our main focus, we can make this time of year very special and meaningful for our families. A Christ-centered Christmas brings about a spiritual joy that cannot be equaled by all the things that surround us during this season. These things simply become a supplement to the inner joy within us.

Beloved in Christ, let us keep the spirit of vigil as we continue our preparation for the feast of the Nativity, so that we may attain the true inner joy of the feast when it arrives. On Christmas Day itself, truly celebrate His birth and our salvation by attending church and receiving His spotless Body and Blood, and then go to your homes to celebrate as the Church urges us to do.

In the love of the Newborn Christ,

+Fr. Anthony

Confession Schedule

Our Holy Church has always instructed the faithful to participate in the sacrament of Holy Confession during all major fast periods of the year, and needless to say, on an as needed basis. During the Nativity Fast I am available to hear confessions per the usual schedule: Saturdays after Great Vespers, and during office hours by appointment. This would be a wonderful opportunity to “sweep” and “cleanse” the manger within us, in order to allow the newborn Christ to enter therein!
Reflections on the Nativity & Theophany


The Christmas-Epiphany season in the Orthodox Church begins with a forty-day fasting period which starts on the feast of the “holy and all-praised apostle Philip.” For this reason Christmas lent is sometimes called “the fast of Philip.” Although the coincidence of the feast of the apostle Philip and the beginning of the Christmas fast is accidental, humanly speaking, the eyes of faith may see in it a certain providence of God.

According to St. John’s gospel, Philip is one of the first of the apostles to be called by Jesus. On the day after the calling of Andrew and another of St. John the Baptist’s disciples, who, since he is not named, is probably the apostle John himself, Philip is called by the Lord. Like Andrew who went and called his brother Simon Peter, Philip goes and calls his friend Nathanael...

The story is typical of St. John’s gospel. The people first encounter the man “Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” They meet Him as a man, the one “of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote.” Then they go further. What they come to see is that this man is not merely the promised prophet and teacher; He is the Anointed, the Christ, the Messiah, the King of Israel. He is the Son of God. Indeed, He is God Himself in human form...

The first step on the way of the Winter Pascha is the encounter with the man Jesus. We are invited with Philip and the disciples, to “come and see.” If we want to come and want to see, we will. Like the first disciples, we will see “greater things” than we ever expected. We will see “heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” We will see Jesus as our Master, and will cry to Him: “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” And we will come to know Him for who and what He really is. But first we must come. For if we do not come, we will never see...

The following is taken from The Year of Grace of the Lord, SVS Press, 1992.

Epiphany (same as “Theophany”) is the first public manifestation of Christ. At the time of His birth, our Lord was revealed to a few privileged people. Today, all those who surround John, that is to say his own disciples and the crowd that has come to the banks of the Jordon, witness a more solemn manifestation of Jesus Christ. What does the manifestation consist of? It is made up of two aspects. On the one hand, there is the aspect of humility represented by the baptism to which our Lord submits; on the other hand, there is the aspect of glory represented by the human witness that the Precursor (St. John the Forerunner) bears to Jesus, and, on an infinitely higher plane, the divine witness which the Father and the Spirit bear to the Son...Let us bear this in mind: every manifestation of Jesus Christ, both in history and in the inner life of each man, is simultaneously a manifestation of humility and of glory. Whoever tries to separate these two aspects of Christ commits an error which falsifies the whole of spiritual life...

The aspect of humility in Epiphany consists of the fact that Our Lord submits to John’s baptism of repentance...Obviously Jesus had no need to be purified by John, but this baptism conferred by the Precursor, this baptism for the remission of sins, was a preparation for the messianic kingdom; and Jesus, before proclaiming the coming of this kingdom, wished to go through all those preparatory phases which He himself was to ‘consummate’. Being Himself the fullness, He wished to take into Himself all that was still incomplete and unfinished...He who was without sin made Himself the bearer of all our sins, of the sin of the whole world; and it is in the name of all sinners that Jesus made a public act of repentance...As far as we ourselves are concerned, repentance is the aspect of humility in Epiphany. And here we must go beyond the limited horizon of the Johaninne baptism and remind ourselves that we have been baptized in Christ. Christian baptism has washed and purified us... Epiphany is, above all, the feast of baptism, not only of Jesus’ baptism, but also of our own. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to renew in spirit the baptism that we received, and to revive the grace which was conferred on us. For the sacramental graces, even if interrupted and suspended by sin, can become alive in us again, if we turn sincerely to God. At this feast of Epiphany, let us ask God to wash us again – spiritually, not actually – in the waters of baptism; let us drown the old, the sinful creature in them, for baptism is a mystical death; let us cross the Red Sea which separates captivity from freedom and let us immerse ourselves with Jesus in the Jordan to be washed not by the Precursor, but by Jesus Himself...

Nativity Fast Continues

Even if we have not kept the fast up this point, it's not too late to begin. We should especially make an effort to uphold the fast, to whatever extent possible, starting on 12/13 through the Eve of the Nativity on 12/24. The Christmas season can be challenging for those who want to keep the fast due to Christmas parties at work, or at the homes of friends and relatives. In these situations we bring to mind the guidance of the Church Fathers: Partake in a limited fashion of that which is offered to you, and do not bring attention to your fasting. With this approach, we don’t lose the spirit of the fast, and more importantly, we retain the virtue of humility, which is paramount in the life of an Orthodox Christian.

We again offer the following traditional guidelines for the Nativity fast:

- **Up to 12/12**: Fasting from all animal products. Fish, wine (all alcoholic beverages), and olive oil may be consumed every day except for Wednesdays and Fridays, with some exceptions. Shellfish may be consumed daily.

- **From 12/13 – 12/24**: Fasting from all animal products including fish, and from wine and olive oil, except Saturdays and Sundays when wine and oil are permitted. Shellfish may be consumed daily.

Remember that fasting should be relaxed for health reasons, and for growing children. Again, the above guidelines offer the ideal fast as a starting point. Your spiritual father is always available to guide you accordingly.
The following was written by Fr. Theodore Dorrance, presiding priest of St. John the Baptist Church of Beaverton, Oregon, a suburb of Portland. Fr. Theodore is a highly respected priest and a good personal friend from my years serving St. George Church in Eugene, Oregon.

The Importance of Worshipping as a Family

Recently, a concern was voiced by some parents of young children regarding the difficulty of having their youngsters sit through our “long worship services.” I realize that each Divine Liturgy is a struggle, trying to keep children attentive and involved, wondering whether they and we are benefitting from the time and effort. This work is further compounded by the fact that many of us have not grown up benefiting from the time and effort. This work is further compounded by the fact that many of us have not grown up ourselves in Orthodox worship. Standing for long periods of time, working hard to stay present and cut off intrusive thoughts, and entering into a rhythm and atmosphere so different from our everyday experience is even hard for us adults.

The Church has some very definite things to say about the presence of young children in the church services as full participants. Ever since the establishment of the Levitical priesthood, infants on the fortieth day of life have been brought to the Temple (church) to be blessed, dedicated and officially welcomed into the corporate worship life of the church community. From New Testament times until the present day, children have been baptized and chrismated as infants. From the day of their baptism, they have been made full members and communicants of the holy mysteries of the Church. If young children are not expected to be in church, why does the Church bless both the mother and her child on the fortieth day and baptize and confirm them soon thereafter?! Of course, we know that they are clothed in Christ and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they can be totally immersed in the life of the Church. The wisest of all men, King Solomon, affirms this truth: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Prov.22:6)

The Church is the Body of Christ, and it is also one big spiritual family. As members of the same Body, we are called to come together to congregate, to meet God and one another and to exercise love and work out our salvation in common as one. This inevitably means that from time to time there is going to be a little noise, a little movement, because we have little ones in our midst. They do not yet have the same attention span to stay focused as long as adults. These little ones are in training. I repeat here the words of Solomon: “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Believe me, and I speak from experience, if we persevere in this struggle to bring our young children to the worship services while they are young, they will soon learn to love worship. It will become a part of them, and they will feel at home in the Church. Experts have long said that the bulk of our personality and our sense of our “self” is formed in the first five years of life. Along with the grace of baptism and chrismation, the foundational experience of our young ones in Orthodox worship will be deeply imprinted on their souls; it will become a part of their spiritual DNA. Allow me to share an example from my own experience. When our oldest was only 3 or 4, we had to be somewhere on a Saturday that prevented us from celebrating Vespers at our church. Presvytera and I decided we would do as much of the Vespers from heart while driving home that evening. We started, but quickly forgot how Psalm 103 continued after the opening line. Suddenly, from the back seat our young daughter proceeded to recite the entire Psalm from memory. We were astonished and learned a powerful lesson about the importance of bringing our children to church even when we are not sure they are even paying attention. It is during these formative early years that our children are like sponges, picking up and retaining all the sights, sounds and smells of Orthodox worship.

We should never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit in our children’s lives or the powerful effect the Orthodox Church’s rich, sensorial worship services can have on young children who do not seem to be paying attention. If they see that God and the Church are important to us, it will become important to them. Our commitment to the worship life of the Church will communicate this same priority to them. Once in the church, they will see the Kingdom of Heaven all around them through the architecture, the icons, the vestments, the candles, the incense, the chanting, etc. They will hear the prayers, the petitions, the hymns and the preaching. They will taste and see that the Lord is good. All of these sensory stimuli will create an indelible mark upon their whole person that will draw them closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us all rise above our doubts as to whether this is of benefit to ourselves and our children. Let us ignore the insidious thoughts that are sent to us by the evil one and heed the words of our Lord: “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.” (Mt.19:14) If we as parents live our faith at all times and teach it to our children in both word and deed, namely bringing them to the Divine Services of the Church, they will grow up close to our Lord. My dear parents, hang in there and have patience. This season of bearing and raising children is brief. Your efforts will bear fruit before you even realize it. I have seen it happen to countless children whose parents were faithful. Not only will the holy and blessed worship life of the Church form and transfigure our children, but your loving and sacrificial efforts will also positively change your lives as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish each and every one of you a most blessed Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and a blessed Holy Theophany as well as a new year filled with health and every good thing.

+Fr. Anthony
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<td>Abbreviated Paraklesis 7 pm followed by adult relig. ed.</td>
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<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>6th Sun. of Luke St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 16η Λουκα. Του Αγ. Νικόλαου Θαματηρογου</td>
<td>Parish Council 6 pm</td>
<td>Fr. Anthony on pilgrimage through 12/10 No Vespers or class</td>
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<td>Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at Assumption of the Virgin Mary - Pawtucket, 6 pm to be followed by IOCC fundraising dinner</td>
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<td>11th Sunday of Luke</td>
<td>Stewardship Committee 6:30 pm Philoptochos Christmas Outing</td>
<td>Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult relig. ed.</td>
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<td>Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 11η Λουκα.</td>
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<td>Sunday Before the Nativity</td>
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<td>No Vespers or class</td>
<td>Nativity Eve Great Hours of the Nativity 10 am</td>
<td>Holy Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh</td>
<td>No Vespers</td>
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<td>Κυριακή Προ της Γεννήσεως</td>
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<td>Vesperal Divine Liturgy-5 pm (includes Holy Communion)</td>
<td>Orthros 8:45 am Div. Liturgy 10 am</td>
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<td>Christmas Pageant</td>
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<td>Πάσχα Άγια. Γεννήσεις του Χριστού</td>
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<td>Sunday After the Nativity St. Stephen the 1st Martyr</td>
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<td>Gr. Vespers of the Circumcision of Christ &amp; of St. Basil the Great 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>Κυρ. Μετα την Γέννησιν Του Αγ. Στεφάνου Πρεσβευτήριος</td>
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<td>New Year's Eve Celebration 9 pm</td>
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# January Calendar

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<td>Please see your illustrated Archdiocesan calendar for daily Scripture readings and fasting guidelines.</td>
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<td>3 Sunday Before Theophany</td>
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<td>5 Great Hours of Theophany 10 am</td>
<td>6 Holy Theophany Great Blessing of Water Orthsos-8:45 am Div. Liturgy-10 am Τα Αρι ως Θεοφάνεια Μέγας Αγίασμος</td>
<td>7 Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner Orthsos &amp; Lit. Η Συνάξις του Τιμίου Προδρόμου και Βαπτιστού Ιωάννου</td>
<td>1 Circumcision of Our Lord &amp; Feast of St. Basil the Great Orthsos-8:45 am Div. Liturgy-10 am Παρθένη και Μνήμη του Αγ. Βασίλειου</td>
<td>2 No Vespers</td>
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<td>Κυρ. Προ τον Φεστιβάλ</td>
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<td>Vesperal Liturgy of Theophany Eve &amp; 1st Blessing of Water 5 pm Πρωτότοκος Αγίων (strict fast)</td>
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<td>10 Sunday After Theophany</td>
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<td>12 Parish Council 6 pm</td>
<td>13 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult relig. Ed.</td>
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<td>16 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>Vasilopita Celebration</td>
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<td>17 12th Sunday of Luke</td>
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<td>19 OPA 2-4 pm</td>
<td>20 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult relig. Ed.</td>
<td>21 100 Year Anniversary Committee Meeting 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>23 Great Vespers 6 pm</td>
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<td>St. Anthony the Great</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 12η Άγιος Αντώνιος</td>
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<td>24 14th Sunday of Luke Gr. Vespers of St. Gregory the Theologian</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26 St. Gregory the Theologian services in Mansfield—6pm</td>
<td>27 Small Vespers 7 pm followed by adult relig. Ed.</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 The Three Hierarchs Orthsos &amp; Lit. Τριάν Τριάν Εορτάζουν</td>
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<td>Κυρ. 14ή Άγιος Αντώνιος</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am (no Orthros)</td>
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<td>31 15th Sunday of Luke</td>
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ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΩΝ

Πέμπτη, 24/12:
– Αι Μεγάλαι Ωραι Χριστουγεννών, 10:00 πμ
– Μεγας Εσπερινος Χριστουγεννων με Θεια Λειτουργια, 5:00 μμ
(Θεια Κοινωνια)

Παρασκευη, 25/12:
– Η Κατα Σαρκα Γεννησις του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου Χριστου
 Ορθρος 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 πμ
 (ανευ νηστεια μεχρι της 4/1 – καταλυσις εις παντα καθημερινως)

Πεμπτη, 31/12:
– Μεγας Εσπερινος Περιτομης του Κυριου & Αγιου Βασιλειου, 7:30 μμ
 (ακολουθει Πρωτοχρονιατικο γλεντι στις 9:00 μμ)

Παρασκευη, 1/1:
– Περιτομη του Κυριου και Μνημη του Αγιου Βασιλειου
 Ορθρος 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 πμ

Τριτη, 5/1:
– Αι Μεγαλαι Ωραι Θεοφανειων, 10:00 πμ
– Εσπερινος και Θεια Λειτουργια Παραμονης Θεοφανειων, 5:00 μμ
 (πρωτος αγιασμος)

Τεταρτη, 6/1:
– Τα Αγια Θεοφανεια του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου Χριστου
 Ορθρος 8:45 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια & Μεγας Αγιασμος 10:00 πμ

Πεμπτη, 7/1:
– Η Συναξις του Τιμου Προδρομου και Βαπτιστου Ιωαννου
 Ορθρος 9:00 πμ, Θεια Λειτουργια 10:00 πμ

ΙΕΡΑ ΕΞΟΜΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ
• Καθε Σαββατο μετα απο τον Εσπερινο
• Ωρες γραφειου με ραντεβου

ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΛΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ!
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΕΡΩΠΟΙ
Μεγάλη η σημερινή εορτή των Παρμεγγίτων Τιμιάτων Μιχαήλ και Γαβριήλ και πασχάλι των Προσώπων Δικαιώματος, καθώς και άλλων σπουδαίων Άγγελων, που έχουν στη ζωή τους υποστεί την ανθρώπινη κατάσταση και ενθάδεια της. Είναι γι' αυτό προτείνουμε να προσευχηθούμε για την ανάταξη της εορτής και την ευήμερο χρόνο της.

Είδικά σήμερα έρχεται στη μνήμη μας το «σταύρωμα καθώς» που βρυτόπραξε ο Αρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ, διότι είναι ένας νέος έρευνες και επίσης γι' αυτό το «σταύρωμα καθώς» είναι για να εκπροσώπησε την πραγματικότητα και την αγάπη της ζωής. Η Εκκλησία, ζητά για να έχουμε την απόφαση στη ζωή κάθε άνθρωπου, για να περιμένουμε και να πάσχουμε σε ένα κόμμα και κατάκριση. 

'Ομως, ο Άγγελος έπεφτε στην οικουμένη την μελέτησής της.

Πρόκειται για τους Άγγελους της ανθρωπότητας που σήμερα ψάχνουν στην ανθρώπινη ύπαρξη και την αρχή της. Στην Παλαιά Διαθήκη, όπου είναι προφανής η άποψη της Θεολογίας, ανθρώπων μεταξύ τους, ο «Άγγελος εμφανίζεται σε πολλά περίπτωσης όπως οι εξελίγονται της θέματος του Κυρίου. Δεν υπάρχει αμβλετότητα στη σκέψη Θεολογίας των άνθρωπων, αλλά περιπλανούνται κι ο «Άγγελος για να γνωστοποιήσει τον Νόμο και τη Θεία βουλή. Γι' αυτό και ο Απόστολος Παύλος στην παραπάνω καθαρότητα της άμα που θα έμπειρε οι Παλαιούχοι Προφήτες, προσέθεσε την καθαρή ανάταξη της Θείας της Βουλής του Απόστολα της Εκκλησίας. Επεξεργάζονται αντιπαθείς σε δώδεκα όρους για να κηρύξουν την ανθρώπινη ύπαρξη. 

Και αυτή η ανάταξη των Άγγελων, μάθημα δημιουργίας περιπέτειας, καθώς οι άνθρωποι έπεζουν κατά τη διάρκεια της θεότητας της, και των άνθρωπων άνοιξης, δεν τους δέχονται ως συνοδούς τους, αλλά ως αναμένοντάς τους. Είναι λογικό, ο Παύλος σήμερα με άμαθα, αρχή και την ανάταξη του Απόστολα της Εκκλησίας, να πεί δυ στοίχημα του που οπεστίευε προς τους συμμετέχοντες του Εβραίου, να πεί ότι οι "Άγγελοι έχουν άγριας πάσχεια μέν, αλλά δεν είναι ευπισκέπτοι των ανθρώπων. Και αυτό γιατί η Βασίλεια των Ούρανων, η άμαθα προσφόρα για να μεταχεί σε άλλης περιοχή της ζωής, δεν ήδη επικοινωνείται από άγγελο, άμα θα κηρυχθηκεί από άγγελο, άμα θα κηρυχθηκεί από άγγελο, άμα θα κηρυχθηκεί από άγγελο, άμα θα κηρυχθηκεί από Άγγελο, άμα θα κηρυχθηκεί από Άγγελο.

Ο Δράμα της ζωής των Άγγελων

Το θέμα να πεί για τους Άγγελους ο Παύλος. Θέλει να τονίσει ότι μπορεί να είναι κανένας, αλλά ένας που θα έπαιξε σημαντικό ρόλο στη ζωή του. Το θέμα του Απόστολου είναι για την άμαθα προσφορά και την ανάταξη της ζωής. Είναι για την άμαθα προσφορά και την ανάταξη της ζωής.
Donations as of November 13, 2015

Memorial

John Sarantakis
    Donna Meaney $ 20

Nick Droukas
    Mrs. Marlene Mihos $ 50

Theokritos Petropoulos
    Mrs. Georgia Petropoulos $ 50

Nicholas Kallis 23 years
    Nikoletta & Maria Kallis $ 50

Other Donations

Rhoda & Irene Economos—$100
    In honor of 90th birthday of Georgia Tasho

1 case of altar candles
    Mr. and Mrs. Ilias Potsis IMO of Areti Potsis

Decoration of Icon of the Entrance of the Theotokos
    Mr. and Mrs. John Dinopoulos IMO our parents and health of our family

Decoration of Icon of the Nativity of Christ
    Mr. and Mrs. George Petropoulos

Decoration of Icon of Theophany
    Anonymous

Holy Water Bottles and spring water for Theophany
    The Buterbaugh Family IMO John Nasios

We wish to announce that our beloved deceased parishioner, Peter J. Pappas, gifted to the parish a donation totaling $330,658.31. The principle, as instructed by his will, is to be preserved in perpetuity. We therefore have established the Peter J. and Ernestine Pappas Fund, from which all income derived will be for the benefit of our parish.

As we approach this holiday season, Christmas and New Years, let us not forget the needy and the less fortunate who deserve a little better. As members of the human race we have a moral and spiritual obligation to care for all mankind.

Our Parish is strong, vibrant and passionate as a united community we will build a solid foundation for the present and pave a clear path for the future for all generations.

The year 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of our existence in our Brockton parish. There will be many events commemorating this important occasion. We will keep everyone informed of all upcoming events.

Our ancestors arrived in this country penniless with limited basic resources but with unlimited faith, perseverance, drive and a strong desire to better themselves and overwhelmingly succeeded. Now let us all unite as Orthodox Christians and move forward to a bright and solid future.

God Bless

2015 Calendar of Events

Parish Council Elections Sunday, December 6th

Parish Council Oath & Election of Officers Sunday, December 20th

2015 Parish Council Meetings
    December 8th

Service Cancellations

For those of you who are not on the church’s listserv to receive automatic e-mail announcements, please remember that you can check for service cancellations using the church’s voicemail system.

*If you call outside of office hours, please listen to the menu and select #5 for the listing of church services for the current week. This message will always be updated regarding cancellations.*

Please note that a decision may not be made until late afternoon for an evening service, or early morning for a morning service, so please double-check before preparing to leave for church.
On the weekend of November 6th–8th, our parish was honored in hosting the 2015 Annual Conference of the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Choirs.

Church Musicians from throughout New England and as far south as Florida gathered to chant the responses of the Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios presiding.

A sincere thank you to the Annunciation Parish and its parishioners.

Yours in Christ,

Heidi Mason
MEMBERSHIP

We would like to wish everyone
A Blessed Christmas,
a Happy and Healthy New Year!

All are welcomed and
bring a friend to our next Meeting:

Pot Luck Supper
February 2nd, 2016
Tuesday
@ 6:30pm

KOLIVA

If you are planning a memorial service and
would like to order koliva, please contact the
Church office at (508) 559-0910
at least one week in advance
The cost is $100 and checks should
be made out to the
Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos Society

COFFEE HOUR

If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour please contact Tina Boutas at (508) 588-8891
Or the Church office.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Forms are available at the
church office

Eligible candidates are those who have
graduated June of 2015,
Parents are paid members of the church
and Philoptochos

Applications must be submitted to the office
by December 31, 2015

BAKING

Cooking classes,
Easter Baking and much
more will be discussed in our
next meeting. Please Join Us.

Shut-In Visitations

Anyone who would like a visit from the
Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos,
Please contact the Church office

Philoctochos Christmas Party—December 15, 2015

This year our gathering will be held at Luciano’s Restaurant.
A bus will leave the Church at 6:00pm.
Please contact Lori Stasiewski @ (774) 240-2867 or Demetra Cariofiles @ (781) 344-9579

A special VOTE will be held at this meeting for our contribution to the Tree of Life
Seasons Greetings

Philoptochos Christmas Party

Please join us for a celebration of the holiday season.

Luciano's Restaurant 800 Washington St., Wrentham
December 15, 2015 6:00 p.m.
R.S.V.P. Lori Stasiewski (774) 240-2867
Demetra Cariofiles (781) 344-9579
by December 8. $40.00 per person

Please choose from the following:
Chicken Francaise or Baked Schrod

Please bring a gift for a fun and entertaining gift exchange (maximum $10)

Bus will leave the church at 6:00 p.m. and leave Luciano's at 9:00 p.m.

Members and friends are invited.
Dear Parents and friends,

This is an invitation from us,
The children of the Greek School of our Church
For the Christmas Celebration
that will take place on
December 19 at 11:00am in
our Church.

Αγαπημένοι γονείς, συγγενείς και φίλοι.

Εμείς τα παιδιά του Ελληνικού Σχολείου της Εκκλησίας μας Σας προσκαλούμε στην Χριστουγεννιάτικη γιορτή μας που θα γίνει στις 19 Δεκεμβρίου και ώρα 11 το πρωί στην Εκκλησία μας.
Hello GOYANS and members of our Parish! In November a few of our members attended the 1st annual MBC Fall camp! MBC, the Metropolis of Boston Camp is a faith-based retreat camp where Orthodox Christian youth from ages 8-18 attend to meet other Orthodox youth (mostly Greek, but not necessarily). Winter camp registration is up! Signups are at goarch.org.

At our November meeting we discussed our community service projects for the Brockton Catholic Charities Holiday Food Baskets, assembling Health Kits for the IOCC (http://iocc.org/kidspage/healthkit1.aspx), holding a secret Santa gift swap between members of the GOYA as well as discussing about a fun event (i.e. ice skating). We also held our annual bake sale and raised over $650.

Our next meeting will be December 6th followed by two meetings in January on the 3rd and on the 26th.

Please note GOYA Scholarship applications are now available at the church office. You must be a college freshman and was an active participant in our GOYA in your high school years. Deadline is January 31, 2016.

On Sunday, November 1st, the Greek School students participated in the “OXI Day” celebration with a presentation that commemorated this important holiday. The program was presented after Divine Liturgy in the Community Center of our Church. It was enjoyed by the Parishioners. All of the children looked beautiful in our Greek National colors of blue and white. Congratulations and many thanks to all of the students and their families who supported this beautiful event.

GREEK SCHOOL
Get Togethers

Dates:

Sunday, December 6, 2015 ~ The Christmas Carol
3pm @ The Massasoit Theater
Join us for lunch after Church at the Hibachi Restaurant
718 Crescent Street in Brockton

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 ~ Celebrating the Church’s 100 years
~ We will be creating our memory page for the Church’s celebration
~ We will be selecting our summer trip...please bring your suggestions

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 ~ Heart Healthy ~ Bowling
~ We will be having a senior candlepin tournament at the Westgate Lanes

Tuesday, Date to be determined: Senior Tax Clinic
~ Helpful information about filing, savings and tax tips

Tuesday, May 24, 2016 ~ Exercise Class
~ This class will be led by a trained instructor

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 ~ Senior outing ~ TBD

Any changes will be posted in the monthly or weekly bulletin.

$25 yearly donation welcomed

Θερμές ευχές
Για όμορφες γιορτές...
Καλά Χριστούγεννα!
Ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος!
Unique Christmas Gifts

Icon Nightlights & Suncatchers
Look like stained glass but are lightweight, colorful.
Great addition to any room.

Downloadable video
Lucia, Saint of Light
Story of young Christian martyr, 10 minutes, plays on any device.
Sample clip: store.ancientfaith.com

We have Icons, Incense, Prayer books
Share our cultural heritage!
Folding icons, small icon cards, prayer books...
We have many unique items that could be wonderful small gifts for

Please visit our collection on Sundays after Church
Email us, annunciation.bookstore@gmail.com
NEW YEARS EVE

2016

CELEBRATION

ANNUNCIATION GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

9:00 pm—1:00 am

MEZEDES
CASH BAR

Dancing to The Music by
APOLLO SOUND

$50.00 Per Person
$25.00 Children 12 and under

Make your reservations by
Purchasing your tickets from a Parish Council
Member
Or
Contact the Church Office at 508-559-0910
The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Presents

Annual Cutting of the Vasilopita

Sunday January 10, 2016
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE COLLECTION TRAY WILL BENEFIT SAINT BASIL’S ACADEMY
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
457 Oak Street
Brockton, MA 02301

Phone
508-559-0910
Fax
508-584-8679
Email
office@annunciationbrockton.org

We're on the Web!
www.annunciationbrockton.org

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