

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Memorials

Michael Valudes (40 day), Athena & Simos Mandros, Vasa Simpson, James Moshos, George Copetas, Angelo Manolas (25 yrs), Kenneth Myers, Nicholas & Anthi Hondras, Angelo & Catherine Poneris, Mark & Helen Mamalakis, Fr. John & Stavroula Hondras, John Tsoflis, Barbara K. Valavanes (5 yrs), Emmanuel Papadakis, Phillipos E. Papadakis, George & Helen Christopher, Apostoli & Zaharula, Evanthis & Dimitrios, Spirtoula & Photios, Dionysia & Temolaion, Sophia & Periklis, Dimaristi & Andreas, Visarion, Maritsa & Thomas Valudes.

Sunday, January 3rd *Sunday before Theophany*

8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Blessing Vasilopita and singing Kalandal!

Tuesday, January 5th *Eve of Theophany*

9:00 AM Theophany Royal Hours
6:00 PM Theophany Vespertal Liturgy
7:30 PM Great Water Blessing

Wednesday, January 6th *Holy Theophany*

8:15 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Liturgy
11:00 AM Great Water Blessing
7:00 PM Vespers for St. John the Baptist

Thursday, January 7th *St. John the Baptist*

8:30 AM Orthros
9:30 AM Liturgy

9:30-11:00 AM Food Box Distribution & Delivery

In honor of Fr. Alexander and Presv. Pearl Veronis for their 60 years of ministry, as we celebrate our parish's centennial and continue their legacy of service and outreach in faithfulness to the Gospel of Christ — Donated with love by Pat and Helen.

Friday, January 8th

9:00 AM Paraklesis to The Theotokos

Saturday, January 9th

7:00 PM Vespers

2021 Stewardship Pledges

Please remember to turn in your Stewardship pledges for 2021!

Pledges received: 177

Total dollars pledged: \$360,186

Our Pledge Goal is: \$600,000

A reminder that masks must be worn in the church before, during, and after the services; and please don't congregate in the Narthex.

Upcoming Liturgies/Services

- † Theophany Royal Hours—Jan. 5 (9:00AM)
- † Eve of Theophany—Jan. 5
- † Feast of Holy Theophany—Jan. 6
- † St. John the Baptist—Jan. 7
- † St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch—Jan. 11
- † St. Anthony the Great—Jan. 17
- † St. Athanasios the Great—Jan. 18
- † St. Gregory the Theologian—Jan. 25
- † The Three Hierarchs—Jan. 30

Theophany House Blessings on Hold

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and increasing number of cases during the holiday season, the clergy will not be making the customary house blessing rounds this January. It is our prayer and hope that we will be able to offer house blessings later in the year when conditions improve.

If you still wish to have your home blessed during the January Theophany season, you may email one of the clergy to schedule a socially distanced visit with safety protocols in place.

Service & Outreach

The coat drive continues through January, any new/slightly used coats & blankets for the families in need. Please drop off your donation in the blue bin located in the breezeway.

Donors needed for:

**Altar Flowers, Altar Candles,
& Candelabra Candles**
January 31, Feb. 28, March 14, 21 & 28

Please call the Church Office 717-394-1735 to make your donation.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, LANCASTER, PA

SUNDAY, January 3rd, 2021 — Sunday before Theophany

Prophet Malachi;
Martyr Gordios of Casarea

Orthros Mode: Plagal 1st

Liturgy Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8

Orthros Gospel: John 20 : 11-18

Liturgy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

THE THEOPHANY [EPIPHANY] OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and salvific work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the Jordan River. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says: "The beginning of the world is water; the beginning of the Gospel is the Jordan." At the time of the Baptism of the Lord in water, the mystery was declared to the world--the mystery that was prophesied in the Old Testament; the mystery that was known only in fables in ancient Egypt and India--the mystery of the Divine Holy Trinity. The Father was revealed to the sense of hearing, the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. When John the Baptist bore witness to Christ, saying: *Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world* (John 1:29), and when John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation were shown. That is to say, the Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them (immersion) and rose again (the coming out of the water); and we must die to the old sinful man and rise again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation. The Feast of the Theophany is also called the Feast of Illumination. The event in the Jordan River illuminates us by manifesting God to us as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. That is one way that we are illumined. And the second way is that every one of us through baptism in water is illumined, in that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION

At one time the fables of the heretics plagued the Church of God, and now the Church is plagued by the fables of the apostates from God. By perseverance in the Faith, by diligence in prayer, by confession of the Faith, and even by martyrdom for the Faith, the Church has remained undefeated. Only by these methods will these new plagues be defeated. The Church of God, the Vessel of Divine Truth, will triumph in the end: *The swords of the enemy have utterly failed* (Psalm 9:6). Blessed Clement of Alexandria, speaking about heretics who left the Church, said: "He who has fallen into heresy travels through an arid desert, abandoning the One True God. Alienated from God, he seeks water in dry places, he gathers barren fruit with his hands, and enters into an uninhabited and thirsty land." This also can be said today about the many theoreticians and inventors of scientific hypotheses who are led by their imaginations and not by the truth of God.

From The Prologue from Ohrid: Lives of Saints by St. Nikolai Velimirovich. Copyright © 1999

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS

We welcome our non-Orthodox friends and neighbors at all the liturgical services with a reminder that Holy Communion may be received only by *prepared* Orthodox Christians. Please sign the Visitor's Registry in the Narthex if you wish to be contacted by the priest.

Father Hector Firoglanis, Pastor
Father Theodosios Palis, Assistant Pastor; Father Alexander Veronis, Pastor Emeritus

www.annunciationorthodox.org

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος 2Τι 4:5-8

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσι, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκε. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, 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 πᾶσι τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

The Epistle 2 Tim. 4:5-8

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.

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον Ματθ α' 1-8

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 ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν 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.

The Gospel Mk. 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."

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

1. RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION (Fourth Mode)

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.

2. FOR THE FOREFEAST (Fourth Mode)

O Zabulon, 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.

3. HYMN OF OUR CHURCH (Fourth Mode)

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery of ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel proclaims this gift from God. Together with him we cry out to You, O Theotokos: "Hail thou full of grace, the Lord is with you."

4. KONTAKION (Fourth Mode)

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."

Εἰσοδικόν

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, φάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλουῖα.

1. ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΜΟΝ (Ἦχος πλ. α')

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠϋδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

2. ΠΡΟΕΟΡΤΙΟΝ (Ἦχος Δ')

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλῶν, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλείμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στήθι ὑπόδεξι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδὰμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι· μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτοὺς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρῖν· καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν. Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσει.

3. ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΝΑΟΥ (Ἦχος Δ')

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τό Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἢ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

4. ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ (Ἦχος Δ')

Ἐν τοῖς ρεῖθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ· Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσει με σῶσαι γὰρ ἤκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτοπλαστον.

