

Sunday Before Theophany

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 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.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, '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 was baptizing 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."



December 31 - The Apodosis of the Feast of the Saviour's Nativity. Saint Melania the Younger

Saint Melania the Younger, who was born in 388, was the grand-daughter of Saint Melania the Elder (see June 8). Her father Publicola was the Eparch of Rome. She was joined in wedlock to a husband and became the mother of two children, both of which she lost shortly thereafter. Thus, having agreed with her husband to pass the rest of their lives in abstinence and chastity, and taking her mother Albina with her, she went off to Africa. They ransomed 8,000 captives; furthermore, they built two monasteries - one for men and one for women - in the city of Tagaste, which was in the district of Tunis. After seven years they moved to Jerusalem. Thereafter Melania shut herself up in a small and narrow hermitage by the Mount of Olives, and wearing away her body with fasting and vigil, she reposed in 434.



Memorials & Trisagia

January 7

1-year Memorial for Jean (Katherine) Kotakis, mother of Penny (Tyler) Burch

January 21

1-year Memorial for A. Glen (Gregor) Beck, father of Cathy (Tom) Reiss and Connie (James) Perch

February 11

19-year Memorial for Mary Labis, wife of Mike Labis

In Our Prayers:

Nora (Elaine) Bangert, Tom Dubis, Seraphima Henderson, Thekla (Rebecca) Kagaris, Achilles Kirkou, Michael Labis, George and Janice (Ioanna) Paradissis, Tom (Anastasios) Masa, Elaine Scott, Despina Zeris.

Sunday Bulletin

December 31, 2017



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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Town & Country, MO 63131

Church Office 314-966-2255

www.assumptiongoc.org

Fr. Joseph Strzelecki

Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos

We celebrate the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ and the Feast of St. Basil the Great

with Great Vespers this evening at 7:00 pm, and tomorrow with Orthros at 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Please join us.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς.

Ἦχος α΄. Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος.

Μορφὴν ἀναλλοιώτως ἀνθρωπίνην
προσέλαβες, Θεὸς ὢν κατ' οὐσίαν,
πολυεὺσπλαγγχε Κύριε· καὶ Νόμον
ἐκπληρῶν, περιτομὴν, θελήσει καταδέχη
σαρκικὴν, ὅπως παύσης τὰ σκιώδη,
καὶ περιέλης τὸ κάλυμμα τῶν παθῶν
ἡμῶν. Δόξα τῇ ἀγαθότητι τῇ σῆ, δόξα τῇ
εὐσπλαγγγία σου, δόξα τῇ ἀνεκφράστῳ
Λόγῳ συγκαταβάσει σου.

Apolytikion of the Feast.

Mode 1. The stone had been secured.

In essence being God, mostcompassionate
Master, * You assumed human
nature without transmutation. * Fulfilling
the Law, of Your own will * You accepted
circumcision in the flesh, * to bring an end
to the shadow, and to remove the passions
that cover us. * Glory to Your benevolence, O
Lord; * glory to Your compassion; * glory to
Your inexpressible condescension, O Word.

Welcome to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.

We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. It is our hope that your visit here will bring you many blessings from God and that you will visit with us again soon.

Please join us for coffee hour in the Philoptochos Room.

Announcements

2017 Calendars: Please do not throw away the icon from the 2017 Church calendars. Return them to the Church office to be reused or burn them with other holy items. Thank you!

PanHellenic Scholarships: Applications are available online at <www.panhellenicsf.org/apply/> Scholarships for high academic achievement and those in financial need of Hellenic descent The deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

CrossRoad 2018: CrossRoad is a 10 day academic summer institute preparing high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2018. Applicants must be 16 to 18 years of age. Three sessions this year are: June 16-26, July 2-12 (both in Boston) and July 21-31 in Chicago, IL. Go to: <http://www.crossroadinstitute.org/>.

2018 Heritage Greece Program: The Heritage Greece Program is a gift from the National Hellenic Society (NHS) to enrolled college students ages 18-26 of Greek or Cypriot descent. The program runs from June 7-24, 2018. Application deadline is March 15th. For more information, please go to <http://www.acg.edu/admissions/study-abroad/heritage-greece/apply-heritage-greece/>.

Giving Opportunities for this Joyous Holiday Season

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis Mexico is in need of donations for crucial ministries. Work needs to be done in completing the translations of the Divine Liturgy in Spanish and printing the bilingual text, along the printing of a bilingual Gospel Book in Spanish and Greek. The Metropolis of Mexico is a missionary Metropolis which consists of parishes in Central America, Venezuela and Colombia, and is currently experiencing significant growth in Guatemala and Haiti. The vast majority of it's parishioners are very poor. Because of this, the Metropolitan does not get a salary and the Metropolis must be supported primarily by donations outside of the Metropolis. Unfortunately, because of a lack funds, the Metropolis recently had its electricity turned off for about three weeks. If you would like to donate to this important cause, please send a check payable to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with "Orthodox Missions Mexico" written in the memo line.

Ormylia Philanthropic Center: "Panagia Philanthopini - Our Lady who Loves Mankind," is a philanthropic center in Greece whose mission is to comfort and alleviate the suffering of the poor and working class public without preference to race, religion, gender, or creed. It is dedicated to spreading the message of God's love and saving grace through medical, educational, scientific research, charitable and spiritual services and ministries. The director of this center is Charles Anthony, a former parishioner of the Assumption Church. During the upcoming holy season, we will take a collection to help the children's programs at this center. Please make donation checks payable to "The Assumption Church" and mark it for "the Ormylia Foundation" and mail or drop it off at the church office. Thank you.

Air Conditioner Update: Thank you to everyone who has given so generously towards the new Sunday School Hallway air conditioner. We still need about \$15,000. Please send donation to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with "Sunday School air conditioner" in the memo.

2017 Stewardship: Please make your 2017 Stewardship commitment by the end of December. Assumption currently has 379 pledged families; however, we need to have at least 400 by the end of this year. It is vital that all families make a stewardship donation and return it to the Church as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting Assumption Church.

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, Dec 31: St. Melani of Rome
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
No Sunday School - Coffee Hour in Philoptochos Room
7:00 pm Great Vespers
8:00 pm New Year's Eve Party
- Monday, Jan 1: **Circumcision of Christ - St. Basil the Great**
8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy & Doxology
- Tuesday, Jan 2: Bishop Silvestros; Hieromartyr Theagenes
6:00 pm College Ministry Christmas Party at the home of Celine and Zaid Khashram
No Greek School
No Vespers
No Bible Study until January 9
- Wednesday, Jan 3: Prophet Malachi; Martyr Gordios
2:00 pm Kafenio
- Thursday, Jan 4: Synaxis of 70 Apostles; Righteous Theokistos
- Friday, Jan 5: **Eve of Theophany**
8:30 am Great Hours
10:00 am Vespers Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Friday Luncheon
- Saturday, Jan 6: **Theophany**
8:45 Orthros
10:00 Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters
1:15 pm Pan Orthodox Blessing of the Waters at Wilmore Park, Lake 1
5:00 pm Great Vespers
- Sunday, Jan 7: **St. John the Baptist**
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy & Sunday School
11:30 am Cutting of the Vasilopita



Women's Book Study: Beginning Thursday, January 18th. Only the morning group will be meeting this session at 10:30 am at the home of Victoria Ambort. They will be reading "The Lenten Spring" by Thomas Hopko. Please contact Presvytera Laura Morton for more information 314-303-1784.