

# THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2014

## HOW TO STICK TO YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Every turn of the calendar millions of people write up even more millions of new year resolutions. They all start with great joy and excitement to build a new self, but the ugly truth is that most lists end up in the garbage bin as the old self gradually regains control.

Why do people fail in their resolutions? A possible cause is that good habits take time to form. The popular belief was that you need about 21 days for a new habit to take roots. A recent [study](#) debunks this myth “*What this research suggests is that 21 days to form a habit is probably right, as long as all you want to do is drink a glass of water after breakfast. Anything harder is likely to take longer to become a really strong habit, and, in the case of some activities, much longer.*” There is no magic number, only hard work and consistency.

Another reason people fail is because they choose inappropriate goals. The classic secular rule of thumb for choosing a good goal is SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time bound. This is all good but experience shows that not only the goals have to be SMART, *but also ourselves have to be SMART to achieve them.* So, here is a possible Christian SMART rule that we can use to begin the New Year well.

**S—Spiritual** Everyone wants to achieve something that will improve their daily life like dieting, waking up earlier, exercising etc., but the real life change comes from within. If we want to become a better person we have to develop good Christian habits first. How about coming to more weekday services? Or participating in the catechism class. Maybe you would like to learn some prayers by heart or resolve to ask forgiveness immediately

(Continued on page 3)

## COUNCIL CAPSULE

I hope everyone enjoyed a Blessed Christmas and extend my wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

During December, elections were held for the Parish Council and I am pleased to announce your new 2014-2016 council members. They are Harry Karegeannes, Jeremy Ellis, Hope File, Michael Eftimie, Chris Geil, Tim Cline, Nick Stanosheck, Stacia Dube, Olga Papadopoulou, Kirsten Shah and Olympia Genovezos. Officers for the council will be elected after the oath of office is given in January.

A big thank you to our Philoptochos for organizing the magnificent display of Poinsettias

(Continued on page 2)



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *How to Stick to your new year resolutions*
- *New Stewardship page*
- *The Theophany Explained—Fr. Thomas Hopko*
- *Stewardship program 2014*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COUNCIL CAPSULE	2
NEW STEWARDSHIP PAGE	4
YOUTH MINISTRIES	6
PHILOPTOCHOS	7
MUSIC MINISTRIES	8
CALENDAR	11

## COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

that have added to the beauty of the church during the Nativity of our Lord. We also look forward to Philoptochos' annual Vasilopita auction in early January and hope all parishioners will support this event. Remember all proceeds from the auction will benefit St. Basil's Academy.

And as 2013 draws to a close, we need to reflect on God's gifts to us and follow His example by giving love and support to our Church. We can express this with generosity and devotion. If you have filled out your 2014 stewardship card, we thank you. If not, please consider becoming

a steward. Your commitment is an opportunity to participate in the work of God by giving back a portion of the treasure God has given to you.

Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

THE PARISH  
COUNCIL WISHES  
EVERYONE A  
HAPPY HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!

## THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY—FR. THOMAS HOPKO

The sixth of January is the feast of the Epiphany. Originally it was the one Christian feast of the "shining forth" of God to the world in the human form of Jesus of Nazareth. It included the celebration of Christ's birth, the adoration of the Wisemen, and all of the childhood events of Christ such as his circumcision and presentation to the temple as well as his baptism by John in the Jordan. There seems to be little doubt that this feast, like Easter and Pentecost, was understood as the fulfillment of a previous Jewish festival, in this case the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany means shining forth or manifestation. The feast is often called, as it is in the Orthodox service books, Theophany, which means the shining forth and manifestation of God. The emphasis in the present day celebration is on the appearance of Jesus as the human Messiah of Israel and the divine Son of God, One of the Holy Trinity with

the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Thus, in the baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus identifies himself with sinners as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), the "Beloved" of the Father whose messianic task it is to redeem men from their sins (Lk 3:21, Mk 1:35). And he is revealed as well as One of the Divine Trinity, testified to by the voice of the Father, and by the Spirit in the form of a dove. This is the central epiphany glorified in the main hymns of the feast:

*When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee his Beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of his Word. O Christ our God, who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee*

(Troparion).

*Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, end Thy Light, O Lord,*

*has shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable!*

(Kontakion).

The services of Epiphany are set up exactly as those of Christmas, although historically it was most certainly Christmas which was made to imitate Epiphany since it was established later. Once again the Royal Hours and the Liturgy of Saint Basil are celebrated together with Vespers on the eve of the feast; and the Vigil is made up of Great Compline and Matins. The prophecies of Epiphany repeat the God is with Us from Isaiah and stress the foretelling of the Messiah as well as the coming of his forerunner, John the Baptist:

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough*

(Continued on page 8)

# HOW TO STICK TO YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

after you upset someone. More fasting can also help you achieve your dieting goals. Be creative but stay spiritual.

**M—Meaningful** Why do we choose a new year resolution? To improve ourselves, to get past previous obstacles, to groom ourselves into the person we want to be, not the one we are stuck with. We have to choose something that, in time, will make us reach this goal. Something with meaning for us, not anyone else. Before taking Communion every Christian admits that he, not someone else, is the greatest sinner. This is true, because what keeps me from reaching God is for me the greatest sin. My sin is specific to me, it cuts my way into paradise, not somebody else's. Our goals have to be meaningful to us, personally; to help me, this sinner, become a better person. For this we need first to know ourselves better by meditating with honesty upon our shortcomings, by consulting the Father Confessors and the Spiritual Fathers, by searching the Scriptures and the writings of the Fathers. Only then we'll be able to put together a meaningful list of resolutions that will make the greatest impact on our lives.

**A—Accountable** Reaching your goals alone can be a difficult task. When we are alone all our fears and our bad

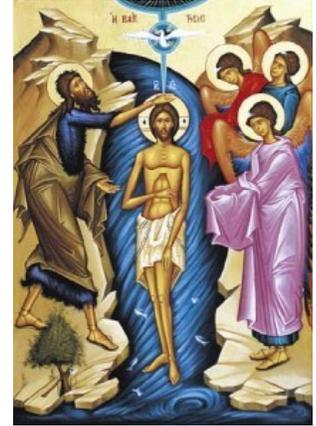
habits come back to haunt us. A friend however can help you stay on track, can motivate you to go past the stumble stones and help you stay on the right path. More than that, Christ himself promised that *"where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"* (Mat. 18:20). Christianity is not about individuals achieving personal goals, salvation is indeed personal, but is achieved only in community. Tertulian said in the fourth century *"unus Christianus nullus Christianus—One Christian is no Christian"*. Only together we can achieve our personal goals and through it the salvation of the entire human race. So find a committed buddy to go to services with, someone that will hold you accountable for praying everyday, will wake you up for Liturgy, someone that will remind you everyday of your commitment to the faith. Above all try to make Christ your friend as He already made us His friends. (John 15:12-15)

**R—Reasonable** Don't think you will be able to move mountains in the New Year. It is still the same old you that will have to accomplish all this. Habits, as we have seen take time to become nature. Start small but consistent and, in time, you will be able to add on to it. For example, if you want to pray more consistently, do not think you will be able to read the entire prayer book every day. Start with a couple

of prayers that you can learn by heart and recite them consistently every day. In time you will work your way up to the entire rule of prayer, but forming the habit of prayer is what's most important. Stewardship is another great goal that you can improve upon every year. If you want to eventually *tithe*, start with one or two percent and move up every year. For whatever you set your mind to, smaller increments are easier to manage than huge jumps that can make you give up easily.

**T—Theocentric** Everything we resolve to do in 2014 should be centered in Christ. All we will choose should help us become more like Him. Our resolutions should help us reach the overarching goal of reaching *"the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Eph 4:13). We should want Christ to dwell in us so we can *"live by the faith in the Son of God"*. (Gal 2:20). So resolve to participate more often in the Holy Communion. Resolve to prepare more for the Holy Gifts through Holy Confession and prayer. Resolve to understand more the saving works of Christ by reading the Scriptures. Be more like Christ by imitating His love for mankind through Almsgiving. There is so much we can do in His Glorious Name!

I hope this helps and wish all of you happy New Year with many accomplished resolutions!

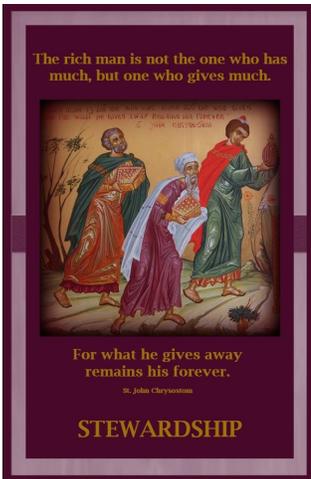


The Theophany of Christ

TO ACHIEVE  
MY 2014  
RESOLUTIONS I  
SHOULD BE  
MORE:

**SPIRITUAL  
MEANINGFUL  
ACCOUNTABLE  
REASONABLE  
THEOCENTRIC**





## 2014 STEWARDSHIP - THE EXAMPLE OF THE MAGI

Our icon for 2014 is *The Gifts of the Magi* and our theme is a quote from St. John Chrysostom "A Rich Man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever."

We've had a great start to the Stewardship year with an unprecedented \$100,180 pledged for 2014. Thank you! Now let's make our first resolution one that allows us to reflect carefully on our personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent and treasure to support

our Parish.

Stewardship ministry is an ongoing commitment to give back to God what He so generously gives to us daily. I urge you to prayerfully give from the heart.

For the next several weeks and thereafter on a regular basis the Stewardship Ministry will be available following Liturgy on Sundays to answer questions, collect Stewardship cards and receive ideas and thoughts on how we can make this a successful year.

I look forward to another glorious year in support of the Stewardship Ministry giving all praise to God for continued blessings.

Remember that Stewardship not only supports our church but allows us to help others in need through various ministries.

Thank you for a wonderful "kick-off" to what I know will be another year to rejoice.

Hope File

Stewardship Ministry

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2014 HAS BEGUN.**

**JOIN US TODAY IN GIVING THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED !**

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2014

We encourage you all to actively participate in our Stewardship Program in 2014 by prayerfully considering your contribution in our 2014 stewardship program and beyond.

Our intent is to develop a culture at St. John's that emulates the Kingdom of God, here and now. We want it to be a place populated with

dedicated people, overflowing with joy, peace and love in the Lord, a place where everyone is welcomed. We want everyone to start living now as responsible citizens of the Kingdom; we want you to become active members at St. John's.

The Commitment Card you are asked to bring is a visible sign of the beginning of your

involvement. Before completing it, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of your commitment. The question is not, "How much do I give to say that I am a Steward?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"

## IS STEWARDSHIP ONLY ABOUT GIVING?

One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual "give, give, give."

To which the priest replied, "Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You're right, Christianity is all about a constant "give, give, give." God giving His only Son to

the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord's disciples giving all they had to make sure God's Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in

gratitude to God!

It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.



## THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH ON ALMSGIVING

Here are some quotes from the Church Fathers and from some teachings regarding almsgiving.

To do alms is a work greater than miracles. . . . To feed the hungry in the name of Christ is a work greater than raising the dead in Christ's name. . . .When thou work miracles, you are God's debtor; when you give alms, God is your debtor." *St. John Chrysostom*

God sells righteousness at a very low price to those who wish to buy it: a little piece of bread, a cloak of no value, a cup of cold water, a mite. *Abba Ephrem*

Through the cheap price of doing good to men, we can acquire the priceless Kingdom

of God. *Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow.*

The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is bare-foot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are the injustices you commit. *St. Basil the Great*

*St. Lawrence* was questioned by a pagan governor who had heard that the Church had a large storehouse of riches and wanted *St. Lawrence* to give them over to the governor. *St. Lawrence* told the governor he would show him the storehouse of riches. He took

the governor to the slums and pointed to the poor, the lame and the ill and said, "These are the treasures of the Church."

"If you help a poor person in the name of the Lord, you are making a gift and at the same time granting a loan. You are making a gift because you have no expectation of being reimbursed by that poor person. You are granting a loan because the Lord will settle the account. It is not much that the Lord receives by means of the poor, but He will pay a great deal on their behalf. 'They who are kind to the poor lend to the Lord' [Prov. 19:17]" *St. Basil the Great.*



**THROUGH THE  
CHEAP PRICE OF  
DOING GOOD TO  
MEN, WE CAN  
ACQUIRE THE  
PRICELESS  
KINGDOM OF  
GOD.**

**PHILARET,  
METROPOLITAN  
OF MOSCOW.**

## WHAT IS CRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Christian Stewardship is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of

humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

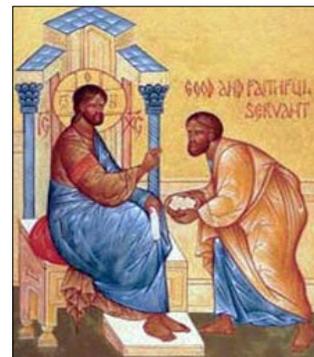
...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

*Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership*





## YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS

The Youth Ministries committee was happy to see the great participation of our church school kids in the Christmas pageant- many thanks to Kirsten Shah for directing! We also enjoyed seeing the GOYAnS caroling - despite the lack of practice time (due to ice storm) they sounded great! And many thanks to our GOYA advisors

for organizing and driving: Michael Poriotis, Gina Poulakos, Niko Pagoulatos and Danny Peters. And a big thank you goes to the Moutafis family for once again hosting the post-caroling fete! This month our middle school and high school students will be working on their essays for the upcoming Metropolis Oratorical Festival. We look

forward to their presentations to the parish at the end of February. Also the 2014 Philoptochos Scholarship will be available online by early February. Hard copy also available.

Harriet Blake  
Youth Ministries Coordinator

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Families,

during our activities.

The months of November and December sure went quickly. Thank you to all the families that helped make our Harvest Basket Donation Drive such a huge success! We collected many items and were able to help lots of families.

Our Christmas Pageant was just fabulous this year! As usual, the students did a great job. I would like to give a big Thank You to Kirsten Shah! She did a great job working with the students and did so much work to make our Pageant a great program. Thank you again to Kirsten.

Our Advent Retreat was a huge success! We had over a dozen children between the ages of 4 and 10 attend. Father Vasile provided a wonderful lesson about the Nativity Feast and shared the beautiful Nativity Icon with us. Father Vasile also provided the opportunity for confession. Next year we will be inviting all of the Church School students, including the older children of GOYA age. Then all of the students will be able to share in the lesson, take confession and take part in the fellowship we all shared.

If you are currently visiting or spend time with us occasionally, please fill out a registration form and allow your child to have some time to have fellowship with other children their age and to be exposed to the teaching of our Orthodox faith. We are happy to have children join us, if only for a short time.

Here are some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

December 22 and December 29--- No Church School, Christmas Break

January 5--- Church School resumes

Thank you to the File family for hosting Coffee Hour on behalf of Church School in December. Upcoming Coffee Hour Hosts:

January 5<sup>th</sup>---Edwin and Cristina Korzun

February 2<sup>nd</sup>---Andrew and Amanda Bilbo

Thank you to all of the families who have volunteered to host Coffee Hour on the behalf of Church School. We appreciate your kindness.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you can contact me any time at [veronicafisherps50@gmail.com](mailto:veronicafisherps50@gmail.com)

Thanks again for joining us this year for Church School. We look forward to a fabulous New Year!

Veronica Fisher

Church School Coordinator

### PARENTS:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN FOR CHURCH SCHOOL, IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY.



## GOYA NEWS

After a successful Christmas program and Caroling the GOYAnS are working hard on their basketball skills in anticipa-

tion for the basketball Tournament. The Tournament will be held at the Fieldhouse USA in Frisco on Saturday, January

18, 2014. please join us to root for our teams.



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Dear Parish Family,

We thank you very much for your support of our programs and projects this holiday season. You are so generous as shown by the quality and quantity of your giving both in products and in monetary gifts. This is precisely an exercise of what Father Vasile has continually asked us to do – give freely and from our hearts to those who need our assistance.

Now we turn the page to a new calendar year! We have two functions on the horizon:

**February 1**, a luncheon meeting of all 3 Philoptochos chapters in the Metroplex here at St. John's. Members, please mark your calendars. Details to come.

**February 22**, the bi-annual

Festival of Tables (see below for more information)

The Festival of Tables is right around the corner. February 22, 2014 at the Marriott Hotel on Centreport Dr. Contact Kathy Fox [817-975-2095](tel:817-975-2095) or Connie Rafiledes [817-295-0167](tel:817-295-0167). This is one of the big projects Philoptochos has to raise money in order to support the scholarship fund and other worthwhile causes in our community. Please help by hosting a table. Thank you for your cooperation.

Don't forget to make it out to the Fieldhouse USA in Frisco for the GOYA basketball tournament on Saturday, January 18, 2014. It is a wonderful day of fellowship and athleticism for our Metropolis! (Hey, sounds like a mini-Olympics that is also right

around the corner!)

In His Service,

Joanie Ruppel, President

St. Irene Philoptochos

THE FESTIVAL OF TABLES IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

FEBRUARY 22, 2014 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL ON CENTREPORT DR.

## POINSETTIAS FOR NATIVITY

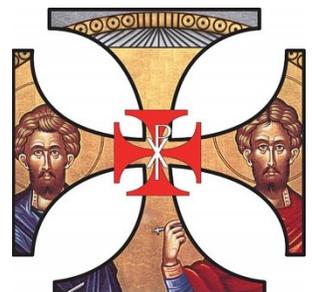
Philoptochos would like to thank all who contributed for the poinsettias that decorated the church for the Christmas season.

JUST A REMINDER !  
We hope that during the many

festivities you enjoyed, you took notice of decorations when visiting friends and family so you can honor those ideas and their creativity for the Festival of Tables February 22, 2014 at the Marriott on Centrepoint Drive.

If you have questions contact:

Kathy Fox  
[817-975-2095](tel:817-975-2095)  
Connie Rafiledes  
[817-295-0167](tel:817-295-0167)





St. Isaac the Syrian

## CHOIR NOTES

Commemorating Feast of Epiphany and Synaxis of St John the Baptist

The Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

**January 6**

**Apolytikion in the First Tone**

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the

Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner

**January 7**

**Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone**

The Jordan accepted Your presence in the flesh and re-

versed its course in fear.

John, fulfilling the spiritual ministry, fell back in awe. The ranks of Angels, seeing You in the flesh, baptized in the river, were amazed, and all who were in darkness were filled with light, praising You who appeared and enlightened all.

-Rena Poletes

MUSIC  
MINISTRY,  
CHOIR AND  
CHANTERS  
PAGE

## THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 2)*

*ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God (Is 40:3-5; Lk 3:4-6).*

Once more special psalms are sung to begin the Divine Liturgy of the feast, and the baptismal line of Galatians 3:27 replaces the song of the Thrice-Holy. The gospel readings of all the Epiphany services tell of the Lord's baptism by John in the Jordan River. The epistle reading of the Divine Liturgy tells of the consequences of the Lord's appearing which is the divine epiphany.

*For 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 our great God and Saviour 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 (Titus 2:11-14).*

The main feature of the feast of the Epiphany is the Great Blessing of Water. It is prescribed to follow both the Divine Liturgy of the eve of the feast and the Divine Liturgy of the day itself. Usually it is done just once in parish churches at the time when most people can be present. It begins with the singing of special hymns and the censing of the water which has been placed in the center of the church building. Surrounded by candles and flowers, this water stands for the beautiful world of God's original creation and ultimate glorification by Christ in the Kingdom of God. Sometimes this service of blessing is done out of doors at a place where the water is flowing naturally.

*The voice of the Lord cries over the waters, saying: Come all ye,*

*receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the fear of God, even Christ who is made manifest.*

*Today the nature of water is sanctified. Jordan is divided in two, and turns back the stream of its waters, beholding the Master being baptized.*

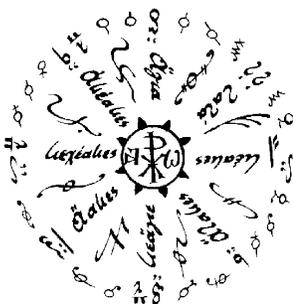
*As a man Thou didst come to that river, O Christ our King, and dost hasten O Good One, to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner (John), because of our sins, O Lover of Man*

(Hymns of the Great Blessing of Waters).

Following are three readings from the Prophecy of Isaiah concerning the messianic age:

*Let the thirsty wilderness be glad, let the desert rejoice, let it blossom as a rose, let it blossom abundantly*

*(Continued on page 9)*



## THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY (CONT.)

*(Continued from page 8)*

*dantly, let everything rejoice... (Is 35: 1-10)*

*Go to that water, O you who thirst, and as many as have no money, let them eat and drink without price, both wine and fat... (Is 55:1-13)*

*With joy draw the water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall you say: Confess ye unto the Lord and call upon his Name; declare his glorious deeds (Is 12:3-6).*

After the epistle (1 Cor 1:10-14) and the gospel reading (Mk 1:9-11) the special great litany is chanted invoking the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the water and upon those who will partake of it. It ends with the great prayer of the cosmic glorification of God in which Christ is called upon to sanctify the water, and all men and all creation, by the manifestation of his saving and sanctifying divine presence by the indwelling of the Holy and Good and Life-creating Spirit.

As the troparion of the feast is sung, the celebrant immerses the Cross into the water three times and then proceeds to sprinkle the water in the four directions of the world. He then blesses the people and their homes with the sanctified water which stands for the salvation of all men and all creation which Christ has effected by his "epiphany" in the flesh for the life of the world.

Sometimes people think that

the blessing of water and the practice of drinking it and sprinkling it over everyone and everything is a "paganism" which has falsely entered the Christian Church. We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God in the Old Testament, and that in the Christian Church it has a very special and important significance.

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has been immersed in the streams of the Jordan, all matter is sanctified and made pure in him, purged of its death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the wickedness of men. In the Lord's epiphany all creation becomes good again, indeed "very good," the way that God himself made it and proclaimed it to be in the beginning when *"the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters"* (Gen 1:2) and when the "Breath of Life" was breathing in man and in everything that God made (Gen 1:30; 2:7).

The world and everything in it is indeed *"very good"* (Gen 1:31) and when it becomes polluted, corrupted and dead, God saves it once more by effecting the *"new creation"* in Christ, his divine Son and our Lord by the grace of the Holy Spirit (Gal 6:15). This is what is celebrated on Epiphany, particularly in the Great Blessing of Water. The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world—through its "prime

element" of watering the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit. It tells us that man and the world were indeed created and saved in order to be *"filled with all the fullness of God"* (Eph 3:19), the *"fullness of him who fills all in all"* (Eph 1:22). It tells us that Christ, in who *in "the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily,"* is and shall be truly *"all, and in all"* (Col 2:9, 3:11). It tells us as well that the *"new heavens and the new earth"* which God has promised through his prophets and apostles (Is 66:2; 2 Peter 3:13, Rev 21:1) are truly *"with us"* already now in the, mystery of Christ and his Church.

Thus, the sanctification and sprinkling of the Epiphany water is no pagan ritual. It is the expression of the most central fact of the Christian vision of man, his life and his world. It is the liturgical testimony that the vocation and destiny of creation is to be *"filled with all the fullness of God"* (Eph 3:19).

*Excerpt from The Orthodox Faith Series by the V. Rev. Thomas Hopko*



THE SERVICE OF  
THEOPHANY ARE  
THE LITURGICAL  
TESTIMONY  
THAT THE  
VOCATION AND  
DESTINY OF  
CREATION IS TO  
BE *"FILLED WITH  
ALL THE  
FULLNESS OF  
GOD"*  
  
(EPH 3:19).





### SACRAMENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

Baptisms: Sophia Zureikat

Chrismations: Stacey Ivanov

*A NEW  
ORTHODOX  
CATECHISM  
SEMESTER  
STARTS ON  
JANUARY  
12TH.*

### CATECHISM CLASSES AND GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

**A New Catechism Semester** starts on January 12th.

The classes will be held after Divine Liturgy on Sundays and will last about an hour.

Inquirers into the Orthodox faith as well as Orthodox people that would like to enrich their faith are welcome to attend.

**Gladsome Light Dialogues** will start with a new program led by Nick Stanosheck in February. Details to follow.

### AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 11:30 am at the church hall for a potluck luncheon and plan for the year ahead. We have much to discuss. Our yearly dues of \$10 per person can be paid at this time also. Please join us and bring lots of ideas for the year ahead.

Our Christmas luncheon was a huge success. I want to thank everyone who attended and gave so generously to our gift card program for our adopt-a-families. The musical program was outstanding!! We are so blessed to have Ivo Ivanov in our parish.

Condolences to Pat Ballas and her family on the passing of her husband, Andy. May his memory be eternal. Light a candle for the swift recovery of Andreas { our bouzouki player} who is recovering from open heart surgery.

Happy New Year !

### USHER SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Tim Cline, Jeremy Ellis

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Hope File, Michael Eftimie

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Chris Geil, Larry Leeders

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Nina Sullivan, Raj Shah

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Barbara Vittas

Fill-in: Harry Karegeannes

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Bennett Kerbow, Jackson Wright, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, Joseph Berca

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora, Matei Tudora

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, George Manos

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah, Luca Tudora

### COFFEE HOUR HOST

1st Sun: Sunday School

2nd Sun: Parish Council

3rd Sun: GOYA

4th Sun: Philoptochos

5th Sun: Parish Council (if applicable)

### COFFEE HOUR DUTIES

#### SETUP

Arrange pastries/food in a desirable manner on the appropriate tables in the parish hall.

You are responsible for making the coffee. Make two pots: one regular, one decaf. Plug in be-

fore going into church. The instructions are in the kitchen.

Prepare a tray with sugar, creamer, sugar substitute, mixing straws, a few spoons. Set with trash bucket.

Put donation basket out with appropriate sign.

#### CLEAN UP

Wash all dishes soiled, including coffee pots.

Return sugar tray to kitchen and replenish it.

Wash off hall tables and kitchen counters.

Thank-You



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**JANUARY 2014**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<p><u>Fasting Symbols:</u></p> <p><i>Fast Free</i></p>  <p><i>Fish allowed</i></p> 	<p><i>Wine/oil allowed</i></p>  <p><i>Strict Fast</i></p> 	 <p><i>Vespers 6pm</i></p>	 <p><i>St. Basil the Great</i></p> <p><i>Circumcision of Christ</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30am</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p>		 <p><i>Royal hours 6pm</i></p>	 <p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
 <p><i>Sunday before Theophany</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30am</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p> <p><i>Church School resumes</i></p> <p><i>Theophany Vigil and Lesser Blessing of the Waters 6pm</i></p>	 <p><i>Holy Theophany</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters 5:30am</i></p> <p><i>Hierarchical Vespers 6:30pm</i></p> <p><i>Feast day Dinner</i></p>	<p><i>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</i></p> <p><i>Hierarchical Orthros 8:30am</i></p> <p><i>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p>	 <p><i>No Paraklesis</i></p>			<p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<p><i>Sunday after Theophany</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30am</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p> <p><i>Andy Ballas' 40-day Memorial</i></p> <p><i>Vasilopita Auction</i></p> <p><i>Catechism Class</i></p>		<p><i>Ageless Wonders 11:30am</i></p>	 <p><i>Paraklesis 6pm</i></p>			<p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<p><i>12th Sunday of St. Luke (10 Lepers)</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30am</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p> <p><i>Catechism Class</i></p>			 <p><i>Paraklesis 6pm</i></p>			<p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Feb 1</i>
<p><i>15th Sunday of St. Luke (Zaccheaus)</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30 am</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i></p> <p><i>Catechism Class</i></p>			 <p><i>Vigil 6pm</i></p>	<p><i>The Three Holy Hierarchs</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 6:00am</i></p>		<p><i>Metropolis Philoptochos Luncheon</i></p> <p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

303 Cullum Dr.  
Euless, TX 76040  
Tel 817 283-2291

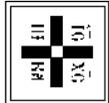
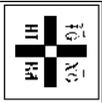
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT

Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner



**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
[HTTP://STJOHNDFW.INFO](http://stjohndfw.info)**



The Theophany of  
Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ  
January 6th



**THE FORERUNNER**

