

THE FORERUNNER

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DECEMBER 2014

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS TO YOU?

I went on a quest the other day to find out what Christmas truly was. From my usual sources I got conflicting information. I could not discern if it was a religious commemoration or another official national holiday or quality family time or a very good occasion for shopping. There had to be a simpler explanation. Since I couldn't figure it out by myself I went out and asked around.

An industrious businessman, in a succinct conversation we had while brisk walking towards his high-rise office building, told me that for him Christmas was the time when everything would slow down. He said he liked that for a bit, but he also knew that January would hit afterwards and everything would spike back up to the usual crazy pace. So he had mixed feeling about it and admitted that sometimes he just skips it altogether.

A teacher that I met while picking up my kids from school, told me that for her Christmas was a welcomed break from her strenuous teaching duties. She couldn't wait to just do nothing while binge-watching her favorite TV show. She'd miss her students though, she

(Continued on page 3)



COUNCIL CAPSULE

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Thanksgiving has come and gone and even though the Advent season started weeks ago if you are anything like me it is only now starting to feel like Christmas is in the air. Nevertheless, let me take the opportunity to say Thank You. Thank you for welcoming me and my family into your community, thank you for allowing me to serve you on the Parish Council, and thank you for all of you participation in the life of our parish this year.

I was pleased to see a large turnout at the General Assembly meeting in November, and for those of you who weren't able to attend there were several notable items that occurred. The 2015 Budget proposal was presented and adopted, we were able to nominate and elect 2 of the 3 members of the 2015 Audit committee, the Parish Council presented a proposal to amendment one section of the Parish Bylaws which was adopted, and the nominees for the 2015 Parish Council were presented. Thanks to the Nominating Committee the fol-

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *What is Christmas to you?*
- *Parish Council Capsule*
- *Stewardship 2015*
- *Youth Ministries News*
- *GOYA Caroling*
- *Advent Retreat*
- *Philoptochos Christmas Dinner*
- *Adopt-an-angel*
- *St. John Maximovitch and St. John Chrysostom on Nativity*

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COUNCIL'S CAPSULE

(Continued from page 1)



lowing member are up for election to the 2015 Parish Council; Cecilia Junell, Jeff Younger, David Ellis, Michael Eftimie, & Jeremy Ellis. Please join me in thanking each of the nominees for their willingness to join and serve as part of the Parish Council! The elections will be held on Sunday December 14th, with absentee voting on Sunday December 7th. Of course voting will take place following Divine Liturgy both weeks.

Additionally, we held Stew-

ardship Sunday November 23rd. Even though this topic is addressed elsewhere I would like to say a few things on stewardship. I have been amazed by how generous this community can be. It can be great responsibility to be part of a Parish, such as this, especially when being a part means helping to keep the lights on and the doors open. I know that none of you are strangers to the reality of paying bills, setting budgets, and making ends meet. The reality of Stewardship is to accomplish this very thing, and it is for that reason that we ask each of you to fill out a Stew-

ardship card and turn it in so that we can better assess our financial expectations throughout the year. Our annual budget is based on what our needs are and we have faith that it will be provided. I urge each of you to prayerfully consider submitting a Stewardship card before the end of the year.

As this will be my last Council Capsule article of 2014 let me wish you all a beneficial continuation of the Advent season, and a wonderful and Merry Nativity!

WE WISH YOU ALL A BENEFICIAL CONTINUATION OF THE ADVENT SEASON, AND A WONDERFUL AND MERRY NATIVITY!

ADOPT-AN-ANGEL THIS NATIVITY SEASON!

It's that time again and Philoptochos is excited to continue its wonderful tradition of "adopting" families and spreading the true spirit of Christmas! In an effort to reduce duplicate gifts and streamline the gift collection, we will be handling this charity a little differently this year.

We will have an "Angel Tree" set up in the parish hall. Each Angel hanging on the tree has a specific gift request---a toy, household item, clothing, gift card, etc. We are helping several families this year, inside and outside of our parish, and the items requested are specific to their needs, and would be very much appreciated.

Please select an Angel (or two!) and bring your wrapped gift to the church by

Sunday, December 21st for collection so that we may deliver to the families before Christmas.

This project is open to all parishioners who would like to either purchase gifts, provide gift cards, cash/check donations, or food items. Groceries, and gift cards for groceries, are one of the main requests from each family this year, so when you're out shopping or checking out at the supermarket, please remember our Angels. Any amount would be appreciated and can really help support them during the winter season.

We will also be providing each family with a Christmas dinner, so we will need 4 turkeys (or hams) at mini-

mum.

Please remember to take a look at the Angel Tree this Sunday and adopt an Angel. Thank you all so much for your continued generosity in helping us in the gift of giving!

May you all have a blessed Christmas,

Linda Papadimitriou
Chairman



WHAT IS CHRISTMAS TO YOU? (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

added, sighing.

A young boy I played basketball with the other day said that for him Christmas is when he'd finally get the game console he longed for all summer. He'd also eat. A lot.

I also asked a young girl that looked a little stressed out. She told me that Christmas was the break she needed. No more assignments, no more homework, no more readings! She'd just sleep, sleep and sleep some more. She'd go to church as well... maybe, if she would wake up on time.

An elderly gentleman admitted that he loves the non-stop Christmas carols radio station. All his childhood memories come rushing back when

he hears Bing Crosby singing White Christmas. He chuckled when he mentioned the sight of his grandchildren as they open their presents in their pajamas, early on Christmas morning. When she heard about the presents, his 4 years old granddaughter that was holding his hand, started jumping up and down shouting 'I want a princess, I want a princess!'

A young couple I met at the mall told me that they couldn't wait for the holiday season pressure to be over. They had to buy presents for everyone, but they didn't had time, budgets were tight, but they felt like they had to, and was stressful, and expensive, and the cooking, and the family coming over... and they had to go because there was a great sales event at the toy

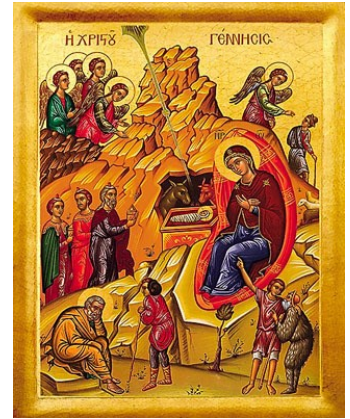
store.

And then I stopped asking people and I looked up into the heavens and asked God Himself: 'My Lord, what is Christmas to You?' I did not hear a thundering answer coming back at me but it so happened that the Holy Bible I was holding fell off my lap and, when I picked it up, it was open at this verse: "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"

You can find it in the Gospel of John, in the third chapter. Take the time to read it; it may save you, sometime.

Blessed Nativity to everyone!

Fr. Vasile



Nativity icon

*FOR GOD SO
LOVED THE
WORLD, THAT
HE GAVE HIS
ONLY BEGOTTEN
SON, THAT
WHOSOEVER
BELIEVETH IN
HIM SHOULD
NOT PERISH, BUT
HAVE
EVERLASTING
LIFE.
(JOHN 3:16)*

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ON NATIVITY

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been 'in planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

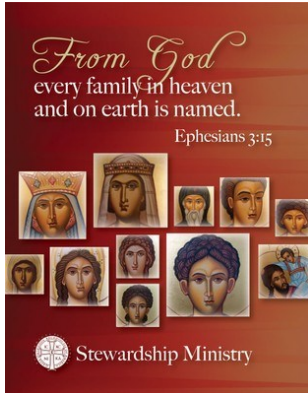
Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infant's food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day

the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star....

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Ghost, we offer all praise, now and for ever. Amen. — **St. John Chrysostom, "Homily on Christmas Morning"**



St. John Chrysostom



2015 STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE IS ON!

When we speak of Stewardship, most often, we stress the importance of sharing the great gifts of God's material world. But which of God's gifts is greater than family? Family is a beautiful and meaningful opportunity to practice stewardship and to grow in our understanding of the blessing of properly using and sharing God's gifts.

But who is our family? In Christ's Church our family goes beyond our blood relatives and extends to all that partake in the Body and the Blood of Christ from the same Chalice. Our Parish, our Metropolis, all of our Orthodox brothers and sisters are our family. But as Christ did not come to save only His immediate family, the people of Israel, so our family extends to all those who have the image of God in them, the entire humanity.

Our family, stretches even beyond the living into the realm of the Triumphant Church going back to all pious generations before us: our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters into the ages.

But even that is not all. Aren't the saints our spiritual parents in Christ? Aren't the angels our protectors? Isn't the Theotokos the mother of all mankind? As such, the great gathering happens right here, in the Church, during the Divine Liturgy, when, on the diskos, Christ sits in the middle as the sacrificial lamb, with the Theotokos as His right, the angels and saints at his left and we, the living and the departed, resting at His feet. This is our family reunion that mystically takes place at every Divine Liturgy.

We are called to share this gift of family with the entire world. We share it by building our meaningful churches that invite people to Christ, by adorning them with icons that open windows into heavens, by serving the Liturgies and the Sacraments, by teaching the faiths to our children, by reaching out in evangelization, by extending our help to those in need, by making everyone our family.

All this beautiful family movement towards God and towards one another is not possible if we don't share, if we isolate ourselves, and our gifts, from one another. Consider Church as a birthday party where we all take turns to give and receive. Everyone is happy in this exchange of gifts; everyone is lifted up

spiritually by the joy of making our family happy.

At St. John's our ministry programs continue to grow and Stewardship is the only way to provide the necessary resources to help sustain them. Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in God's grace strengthening our family. Giving to St. John the Baptist is a way to thank God for His generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give?" We must ask ourselves instead "How can I thank God for the blessings He gives everyday to my family?"

I encourage you all to actively participate in our God's work at St. John's by prayerfully considering your contribution in our 2015 stewardship program and beyond.

With paternal blessings
Fr. Vasile Tudora

I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN OUR GOD'S WORK AT ST. JOHN'S BY PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING YOUR CONTRIBUTION IN OUR 2015 STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND BEYOND.



2014 STEWARDSHIP LAST WEEKS!



It's that time of year for us to ensure that we are fulfilling 2014 pledges before the end of the calendar year. While thus far we are still short of our goal of \$278,000 we still have 122 wonderful Stewards and \$228,383 pledged to date. There is STILL time to become a Steward for this year – all it takes is a card and pledge of time, talent or treasure! I remain hopeful that we can come closer to our goal.

As we embark on a time of "Thanksgiving" there is no better time or place to give thanks but to our almighty God. Stewardship is our first step in pledging our first fruits to our wonderful Lord

and Savior.

A parishioner shared with me a program from St. Barbara Monastery with a beautiful message about "fundraising" and inviting people to share in supporting the Church and its ministries. I believe there are correlations to Stewardship. I provide an excerpt because it gives us all an opportunity to reflect and renew our minds and hearts.

"From the perspective of the Gospel...fundraising is a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting people into our mission. It is precisely the opposite of begging...Rather, we are declar-

ing...: We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you...in this work to which God has called us."

Father Noumen

While Stewardship Ministry teams may change with new faces and ideas, our mission always remains the same. To give thanks, support our ministries and become an active member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church but pledging your time, talent and treasure as a Steward.

Stewardship Ministry

ONLY FEW WEEKS LEFT FOR US TO REACH OUR 2014 STEWARDSHIP GOAL,

TOGETHER WE CAN DO IT!

HOW TO BECOME A STEWARD IN 2015?

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at Baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments and through our faithful offering of our lives to Christ. We have to distinguish however between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years old and has turned in a signed stewardship commitment card (for time, talent and treasure). The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commit-

ments. Overall true membership in the Body of Christ, involves living daily according to His word and within His Church.

Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

Knowing the amount of your monetary participation helps our parish plan the activities throughout the year. Your monetary stewardship is kept in the strictest of confidence.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year,

people's circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.

How do I submit a Stewardship Card?

You can find the card in the pews in Church or you can fill one on-line and e-mail it to our church office at stjohndfw@gmail.com.

More info [here](#)



YOUTH MINISTRIES



Youth Ministries thanks Presvytera Mirela and George Vittas for their presentation last month to the middle and high school classes. They recounted their **visit to Ground Zero** and the groundbreaking of the new St. Nicholas Church which was destroyed during the 9/11 attacks. It was a great to hear a live report and to view the video.

The 2014 **Southern Region Fall Retreat** was held in November at Pine Cove Outback Retreat Center (outside of Houston). We had seven GOYAns attend. This is a wonderful event for faith and fellowship. We hope to see more of our kids take advantage of the opportunity for the spring event.

The **Oratorical Festival** is around the corner - our local

competition takes place Feb. 8. All middle school and high school students have been given the topics. We would like all students to write an essay - even if they don't want to present to the parish. Parents: Please encourage your kids to select and re-search one of the given topics (there are some very relevant ones this year). We'd like to see rough drafts before the Christmas break.

Currently the GOYAns are preparing for the annual **GOYA Basketball Tournament** to be held again in Dallas, Jan. 16-19. Thanks to Gina Poulakos and Michael Poriotis for organizing and coaching the teams. We also appreciate Elena Bouras, Elizabeth Seals, Nico Pagoulatos, Danny Peters and Savvas Zingas for being GOYA advisors.

GOYA will be Christmas caroling on Dec. 7.

Please support them by inviting them to your homes. The carolers also will be paying a visit to the Philoptochos Christmas Dinner.

In addition, **GOYA's new Zorba T-shirts** are in. They come in several colors, both short sleeve and long. Please see Maria Tudora to purchase.

Have a wonderful Christmas season!

Harriet Blake Youth Ministries Coordinator

DON'T FORGET
OUR ADVENT
RETREAT ON
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 13.

ALL AGES ARE
WELCOME AND
ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Families,

We had a fabulous November. Thank you to all of the families for donating to our Thanksgiving Basket. We made a wonderful donation to a local Food Pantry. Thank you to Joanie Ruppel for coordinating the delivery.

Don't forget our Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 13. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to have a lesson from Father Vasile and he will be offering Confession to us all. We will have crafts and will be practicing for our Christmas Pageant.

We will have our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 14th directly following Divine Liturgy.

Christmas Break will be from December 21 to January 4, when classes will resume.

Thank you to the Korzun family for graciously hosting Coffee Hour in November.

Upcoming Coffee Hour hosts:

December 7th -- The Barnes Family and Veronica Fisher

January 4th -- The Bilbo Family and Veronica Fisher

Again, thank you to all of the families who have volunteered to host Coffee Hour

on the behalf of Church School. We appreciate your kindness.

Please remember to register your children for Church School, if you have not yet had the opportunity. Each classroom has extra forms and you may also download the registration form and church school calendar from www.stjohndfw.info.

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

Veronica Fisher



PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATE

The Literacy Project is in full swing as the \$500 purchase of books for the WIC group have been purchased and donated. Members of our group are also donating additional funds to supplement. Our chapter will also be presenting a set of the LOUKOUMI books to our church library for use of our own little ones.

We are happy to announce that our own Lynn Peters has been tapped by His Eminence to serve on the National Philoptochos Council! Barbara Vittas is also a member! It is uncommon to have two persons from a parish honored so honored!

Our Veteran's Day observance was so received and beautifully executed by both

Father and Joanie. We plan to make it an annual event.

The annual Philoptochos Christmas Dinner is always "a hoot" and you are all invited! It is on Dec. 7th at the Texas Star Conference and Golf Center in Euless. We enjoy a fun Chinese Auction, a great dinner and lots of good fellowship. Margaret Chokas has all the details.

Saturday, Dec. 13 is our baking day for Koulourakia for the Dec. 14 Christmas bake sale. Please pick up your Dec. 7th order for Bread, Baklava, Koulourakia and Galaktoboureko on Dec. 14. We ask our members and any friends to come and help us bake on

the 13th at 9:30 a.m. We will need help in arranging the Poinsettias in our church on that morning also....so your help is truly needed and appreciated!

I am substituting (writing) this month for our very hardworking President, Joanie Ruppel this month. I have been a happily active member of Philoptochos for 35 years because I believe deeply in its mission of philanthropy. Is you have not yet...please JOIN us!

Wishing you a blessed holiday,
Athena Pachares



DON'T FORGET TO ORDER FOR OUR DECEMBER 14 BAKE SALE

GOYA NEWS

GOYA has been preparing for their annual **Christmas Caroling for Sunday, December 7th**. They are raising money to help send them to Dallas for the **Basketball Tournament** on Friday January 16-Monday January 19th.

We have a total of 18 kids attending from St. Johns this year and 7 advisors. It will be an awesome turnout!

If available please come help support and cheer on our teams at Field House USA in Frisco on Saturday, January 17th.

Another fun upcoming event GOYA will be having is a **team building event on Friday, December 18th** at Group Dynamix.

Next meeting will be Sunday, December 7th & the following month on Sunday, January 4th.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

-Gina PoulakosGOYA Advisor





The hand of St. Ephraim the Syrian, a patron Saint of Church Musicians

INSPIRATION FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

Music is a divine act and science concerned with tones, which aids us in expressing the sentiments of the heart by means of voice and instruments. —**S.J. Savas**

The aim of this music is not to display the fine voices of the chanters, or to entertain the congregation, or to evoke aesthetic experience.... The aim of Byzantine sacred music is spiritual. The music is, in the first place, a means of worship and veneration; and in the second place, a means of self-perfection, of eliciting and cultivating man's higher thoughts and feelings and of opposing and eliminating

his lower, undesirable ones. —**C. Cavernos**

If you know what you are chanting, you acquire consciousness of what you know; from this consciousness you acquire understanding; and from understanding springs putting into practice what you have become conscious of. —

Abba Theoleptos (from the Philokalia)

Among the things that awaken the mind from its sleep and help one become attached to God are the reading, in right measure, of the Holy Scriptures and the interpretations of them by Saints, and psalmody executed with the proper understanding. —**Callistos Telkoudis**

If you have not yet received the gift of prayer or chanting, seek it vigilantly and you shall receive it. —**St. Neilos**

God is peace, beyond all tumult and shouting. Our hymns, accordingly, ought to be angelic, without tumult. Psalmody has been given us that we may rise from the sensory to the intelligible and true. —**St. Gregory of Sinai**

We ought, as the sacred writings teach, to guard our mind carefully and to psalmody without distraction and with understanding. —**Abba Philemon**

WHAT IS THAT WORD? KONTAKION ?

Originally, a *kontakion* was a long, structured liturgical poem - a sort of sermon in verse - used in the Byzantine Rite. Although such complete *kontakia* are now rare, the initial verse(s) of many *kontakia* are still sung at Matins, the Divine Liturgy, and other services. Some of these *kontakia* were originally the proemia of complete *kontakia*; others were composed later, using existing *kontakia* as models.

According to tradition, the [first kontakion](#) was sung in the sixth century by a Syrian deacon named Romanos. Serving in the church of Blacharnae in Constantinople at the all-night vigil on

the feast of the Nativity of Christ, he was ridiculed by the other clergy for his lack of skill in chanting. In tears, he prayed to the Theotokos, who appeared to him in a dream, and gave him a scroll, with instructions to swallow it. Upon awakening, he asked permission to sing, mounted the ambo, and in an angelic voice sang:

On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in Essence, to the Unapproachable the earth doth offer a small cave. Angel join in choring with shepherds in giving glory, with a star the Magi travel upon their journey, for our sakes is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages as God.

The clergy and people were amazed both by the grace of

his singing, and its theological content; he went on to write hundreds of *kontakia*, of which perhaps fifty authentic examples have survived.

In essence, the *kontakion* is now simply a short hymn like the troparion, but perhaps more inclined toward rhetoric or storytelling to make its point. Each *kontakion* is assigned to one of the eight tones. In current usage the *kontakion* is a short hymn sung at Matins after the sixth ode of the canon, at the Divine Liturgy just before the Small Entrance, and at the daytime Hours.

More [here](#)



1962 NATIVITY EPISTLE OF ST. JOHN MAXIMOVITCH

"Thou, Who art the God of peace and the Father of compassion, didst send unto us the Angel of Thy great Counsel, granting us peace"

The Angel of the pre-eternal Counsel of the Holy Trinity comes to the earth. This is not an ordinary messenger; it is the Only-begotten Son of God Himself. He brings peace to men. "Peace be unto you," he said more than once to His disciples. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you," He says to the apostles at the Mystical Supper, "not as the world giveth, give I unto you." And appearing after His Resurrection, again He says: "Peace be unto you." "For he is our peace," the Holy Apostle Paul says concerning Him: "He came to the earth to reconcile man unto God by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby. And having come, He preached peace to those afar off and to those near, because through Him we both have access unto the Father."

The wall that separated heaven and earth is destroyed; the sword that barred the way to the Tree of Life disappears. Unto man that had sinned comes his Creator, calling him into His embrace! By the mouths of the apostles, the Holy Spirit cries out: "In Christ, be ye reconciled to God." You that had sinned came not to God, but the Son of God, before Whom you sinned, came to you! He calls everyone to Himself; He

gives forgiveness to everyone who merely thirsts for this. For without the desire of man himself, without at least his little effort, God's peace cannot settle in him. The Lord forces no one to come to Him, but calls everyone: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Come all ye who are heavy laden with sins, who are exhausted from your labors and who do not find rest! You shall find that inner peace, which you will find nothing on earth more desirable than. The soul will feel unearthly peace and joy.

The Magi who worshipped the Babe experienced that joy; the shepherds, finding Him lying in a manger, also felt it. But neither peace nor joy touched the heart of Herod and those who wanted to destroy the Babe. For evil desire and malice are incompatible with inner peace. And whoever does not have inner peace, also sows strife and malice about.

The Church now calls us to meet Christ Who comes from heaven. What can we do in order to meet Him like the Magi, and not like Herod? "Ye that desire life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." It tends to be hard to do this; we are weak when it comes to everything good. But the

Son of God even came for this: in order to strengthen us. Not for naught was He born in Bethlehem, which signifies "house of bread." He feeds us with heavenly food, His flesh. "God, the Lord and Creator of all, as a babe in the flesh, is worshipped in a poor manger, crying out: 'Eat My body and through faith be made steadfast.'" These words of the divine Babe are directed to us. Let us hearken to His call! Let us follow the Magi; let us hasten with the shepherds! Our churches are now that cave of Bethlehem. Not illusory, but in reality does He, Who is now being born in His most pure flesh, rest in them. Let us worship Him; let us offer as a gift our thoughts and desires; let us confess our sins, and let us taste of His immaculate Body and Blood. Whoever did not do this earlier, let him at least accomplish it now, when the star of Bethlehem is already shining! Our minds will be enlightened and the heart will hear:

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!



St. John Maximovitch

GLORY TO
GOD IN THE
HIGHEST, AND
ON EARTH
PEACE, GOOD
WILL AMONG
MEN!





DECEMBER AGELESS WONDERS MEETING

The Ageless Wonders will not have a December Meeting. We are only doing the \$10 Christmas Gift Card from Target. Please support the Philoptochos Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7. It's open to all parishioners. Check the Invitation for details. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....Margaret

CATECHISM CLASSES AND *LIBRARY PROJECT*

Catechism and faith Enrichment Classes, Fall Semester, for inquirers into the Orthodox faith, as well as Orthodox Christians is ending soon, but we'll start again in January with our Spring Semester classes on Sunday, after Divine Liturgy. Join us!

Also our parish **Library Project** is on its way, We are currently looking for book sponsors. Please contact Steve Zabak at

OUR PARISH **LIBRARY PROJECT** IS ON ITS WAY,

DONATE A BOOK TODAY.

USHER SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday: Tim Cline, Nancy Medvic—8/3, 10/5, 12/7, Jeremy Forcum—9/7, 11/2
- 2nd Sunday: Hope File, Michael Eftimie
- 3rd Sunday: Jeremy Ellis, Olympia Genovezos
- 4th Sunday: Olga Papadopoulou, Chris Geil
- 5th Sunday: Kirsten Shah, Harry Karegeannes—8/31, 11/30
- Fill In: Harry Karegeannes

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday: Jackson Wright, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora
- 2nd Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, Joseph Berca
- 3rd Sunday: James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora, Matei Tudora
- 4th Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, George Manos
- 5th 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

DECEMBER 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	2	3	4	5	6	6
<p><i>Fasting Symbols</i></p> <p> Fish allowed</p> <p> Wine Oil Allowed</p> <p> Strict Fast</p> <p> Fast Free</p>	<p></p> <p><i>Nahum the Prophet</i> <i>Philaret the Merciful of Amnia</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Habakkuk the Prophet</i> <i>Cyril of Phileus</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Zephaniah the Prophet</i> <i>John, Bishop and Hesychast</i></p> <p><i>Paraklesis 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Barbara the Great Martyr</i> <i>John the Righteous of Damascus</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Savas the Sanctified Martyr Diogenes</i></p> <p><i>Great Vespers 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Nicholas the Wonderworker</i> <i>Nicholas the New Martyr</i> <i>Orthros 8:00 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:00 am</i></p>
<p></p> <p><i>10th. Sunday Of Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i></p> <p><i>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan</i> <i>Athenodoros of Mesopotamia</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Forefeast Conception Theotokos</i> <i>Patapios of Thebes</i></p> <p><i>Great Vespers 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Conception of Theotokos</i> <i>Hanna the Prophetess</i></p> <p><i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 am</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Menas, Hermogenes, Eugegraphos</i> <i>Thomas of Bithynia</i></p> <p><i>Paraklesis 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Daniel the Stylite</i> <i>Luke, Stylite of Chalcedon</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Spyridon the Wonderworker</i> <i>Peter the Aleut</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Auxentios & Martyrs of Sebaste</i> <i>Lucia the Virgin Martyr</i> <i>Herman of Alaska</i></p> <p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<p></p> <p><i>11th. Sunday of Luke</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p> <p><i>Thyrsos, Leucius, & Callinicos</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Eleutherios, Bishop Illyria</i> <i>Susannah The Deaconess</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Haggai the Prophet</i> <i>Modestos, Abp. Of Jerusalem</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Daniel & the Three Holy Youths</i> <i>Dionysios of Zakynthos</i></p> <p><i>Paraklesis 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Sebastian & His Companions</i> <i>Michael Synkellos the Confessor</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Boniface of Tarsus</i> <i>Gregentius, Bishop of Ethiopia</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>Ignatius the God-Bearer</i></p> <p><i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<p></p> <p><i>Sunday before Nativity</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p> <p><i>Forefeast of the Nativity</i> <i>Juliana & 630 Companions</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Anastasia the Great Martyr</i> <i>Chrysogonos the Martyr</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Ten Martyrs of Crete</i> <i>Consecration of Hagia Sophia</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Eugenia the Nun-martyr of Rome</i> <i>Eve of the Nativity of Christ</i></p> <p><i>Royal Hours 8:30 am</i> <i>Vesperal Liturgy 6PM</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Nativity of Jesus Christ</i> <i>Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar & Balthasar</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i> <i>Euthemios, Bishop of Sardis</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Stephen, First Martyr</i> <i>Theodore the Confessor</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i> <i>Great Vespers 5pm</i></p>
<p></p> <p><i>Sunday after Nativity</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i></p> <p><i>20,000 Martyrs in Nicomedia</i> <i>Martyr Glykerios</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents)</i> <i>Righteous Marcellus</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Anysia of Thessaloniki</i> <i>Gideon of Mount Athos</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Apodosis of the Nativity</i> <i>Melania, Nun of Rome</i></p> <p><i>Vespers 6pm</i></p>	<p></p> <p><i>Circumcision of Our Lord</i> <i>St. Basil the Great</i></p> <p><i>Orthros 8:30</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i></p>		



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

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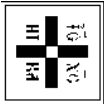
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The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25, 2014

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