

# THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2015

## A MATTER OF TIME

Every year people from all over the world celebrate the coming of the New Year. Is a time of joy and renewal where everyone's "eats, drinks and makes merry". Nothing wrong with that. It is however odd that, as Christians, we celebrate this randomly chosen day of passing with so much pomp and joy, yet other, maybe more important days, we tend to neglect often than not.

What days are you going to ask? Well say Theophany, or The Ascension of the Lord, or His Transfiguration, or The Annunciation of the Theotokos, all major Christian

Holy Days, important milestones in the salvation of the entire mankind that are left behind, attended by just a few, because most often they fall during the week and we just don't have time for it.

Ask yourself honestly when was the last time you attended a Weekday Liturgy or a Vespers service? Or when did you come early to attend the Sunday morning Matins service? Or when did you stay to listen to the prayer of Thanksgiving After Communion at the end of Divine Liturgy. Or when did you say your morning and evening prayers peacefully, without rushing? We all find excuses: I had to go to work, school, we can blame it on the secular state or business that do not consider our feast days as national holidays, we were tired, busy with many other things etc. Bottom line is if we really

*(Continued on page 3)*



## COUNCIL CAPSULE

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I truly hope each of you had a wonderful Christmas time, and had the opportunity to be with family. I was so excited to see as many of you as I did at Christmas Eve and Nativity services. It was wonderful to celebrate the birth of Christ with our Parish family. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't also wish you a happy New Year!

The election results for the 2015 Parish Council members has been sent to the Metropolis for ratification, and the Parish Council has been preparing for transition to the new Council, so there is not much to report. However, let me first express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Harry Karegeannes, Hope File, & Tim Cline for their years of service on the Parish Council! Hope File & Tim Cline both served on the stewardship committee and were instrumental in keeping up with all things related to stewardship including providing monthly reports to the Council and to the General Assembly as well as organizing & pre-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *A Matter of Time*
- *Church Name Day*
- *Parish Council Capsule*
- *Stewardship 2015*
- *Youth Ministries News*
- *The Theophany icon explained*
- *Elder Porphyrios: Ecclesiastical music cures depression*
- *Vasilopita Auction*

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## COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

paring our stewardship drives. Harry Karegeannes ends his term serving as the Vice President, serving on the Security Committee, and being the key coordinator for our coffee hours to ensure there is always coffee and snacks for parishioners and visitors-this is in addition to countless other services that are too numerous to mention here. Please join me in congratulating them on their excellent term of service and thanking each of them for all of their hard work over the years!

One additional point of business is our Parish's Name Day Celebration. The Feast Day for St. John the Baptist is on Wednesday, January 7th. I am saddened to say that His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah will not be with us this year, nevertheless, we will be

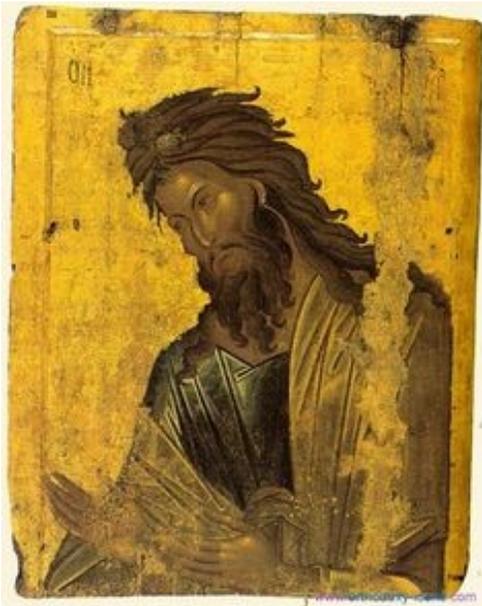
celebrating this very important Feast. Planning is underway and as soon as date, time, and activities are confirmed further announcements will be made. Please plan on attending services for our Parish's namesake and joining with us in celebration.

Finally, I will beg your indulgence to speak on an additional topic. With the new year upon us I have been thinking about my personal New Year's Resolutions. Just thinking over the course of the last year there have been a tremendous number of occasions where I have fallen short in my spiritual life, with my Parish responsibilities, with family, and with work. I usually don't formalize my New Year's Resolutions, and as a result few of them actually come to any success. But, this year I am going to try something new and actually memorialize my resolutions

in a greater effort to be better this year than last year. I encourage you to join me in this exercise. Even further, I'm going to ask each of you to make a resolution concerning your personal commitment to the Parish, and your Parish family. I'm specifically asking for each of you to commit to helping this year with one or more reoccurring committee, activity, or ministry responsibilities. We are a growing Parish, and we can do amazing things together when we all pitch in work toward our common goal. Happy New Year, and I truly look forward to this new year with each of you!

Jeremy Ellis

WE ARE A  
GROWING  
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## CHURCH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

On January 6 and 7, 2015 we will celebrate the Feast Day of our Church, **The Synaxis of Saint John the Baptist** with the customary Church services on January 6 and 7.

The celebration will continue on January 11 with a luncheon immediately following Divine Liturgy. Free will donations accepted.

### Schedule of Events

**January 6:**

Vigil 6:00 PM

**January 7:**

Divine Liturgy 6:00AM

**January 11:**

Luncheon following Divine Liturgy

## A MATTER OF TIME (CONT)

(Continued from page 1)

wanted to do it we would have done it. If we would have made it a priority we would have been there. But we did not and the excuse is: no time.

After all what are we so busy with that we cannot find time for the most important thing in our lives: salvation of our souls? In this rat race that we all are forced in at this point, we always complain about time, yet we waste so much of it. We fight for time but time slips in between our fingers and vanishes before we could realize it. We find time for watching sports, our favorite TV shows, play Candy crush saga (stop sending me invites please!) or catch up with our friends on Facebook. Yet, when it comes to wisely use it for something that can build us up for eternity, we fall short and we start finding excuses and keep postponing.

Procrastinating in regards to our spiritual life is a major setback in our development as Christians just as it is in anything we wish to do: homework, projects, financial goals, fitness etc. We always say: I'll do it tomorrow and tomorrow becomes today and we never get to it. The Fathers actually recommend this technique to push away sin. They say: *'when temptation comes say to your sinful thought, I'll do it, but not now, later, and later you postpone again until the thought perishes and you are delivered from it.'*

In regards to the things pertaining to salvation, we should go by the saying: *'do not postpone for tomorrow what you can do today'*. Why is this? Because we do not own time. Time is given to us, we borrow it from God and He

can choose to take it away at any moment. Remember the parable of the rich man that had a good harvest and how he thought he'll have time to eat, drink and make merry, and how that very night the angel of the Lord came to take his soul calling him a fool for believing he is in control of his time? Remember as well the five foolish virgins that thought they'll have time to buy oil for their lamps and the Bridegroom came and they were left outside? The Scriptures are full of edifying example that over and over show us that by simply worrying we cannot add one hour to our lives. (Mathew 6:27)

We don't have time to postpone because we *"do not know the hour when our Lord will come"* (Mat 24:42) We can only be watchful and be ready in any moment. The Gospel warns us that all is happening now, not later, not tomorrow, but in this very moment: *"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live"*. (John 5:25)

This gives our life an acute sense of immediacy, in which we are to strive to be in the presence of God not just sometimes, when is convenient for us, but at all times. It pushes us to be ready to give account at all times for how we have spent the gift of time entrusted to us.

In the end it is not a question of finding time, the time has been given to us, we have 60 minutes in every hour, 24 hours in every day and 365 days in every year. We have the time. The real question is are we using it wisely?

As we enter in the new year and we all make resolutions, maybe

you'll put as a priority one like this: *I'll make more time to fill the image of God I have been given with His likeness by committing my entire life to Him*. Sounds difficult, I know, but aren't we saying that in every Liturgy: *"Let us commit ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God"*?

Start with small steps, maybe find more time for personal prayer, attend a Paraklesis service on a Wednesday, come 30 minutes earlier to Divine Liturgy, read a spiritual book, read the Bible. There is so much to do.

Train yourself to spend more time in God's presence, by gaining consistency in your spiritual life and it will be filled with the grace that comes from the One you're spending time with. There is a saying: *"Tell me who your friends are so I can tell you who you are."* Spend the time and effort to become Christ's friend and you will become Christ-like yourself.

The time is now my friends. Don't waste it. Act.

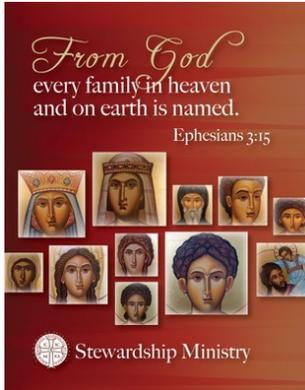
A blessed and spiritually fruitful New Year to All!

Fr. Vasile



"TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, AN HOUR IS COMING AND NOW IS, WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SON OF GOD, AND THOSE WHO HEAR WILL LIVE".  
(JOHN 5:25)





## 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.

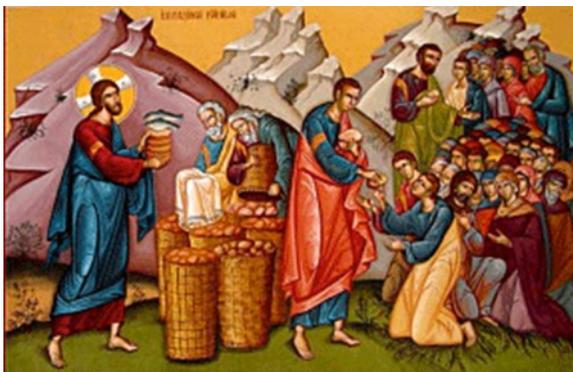
All this beautiful family movement towards God and towards one another is not possible if we don't share, if we isolate ourselves, and our gifts, from one another. Consider Church as a birthday party where we all take turns to give and receive. Everyone is happy in this exchange of gifts; everyone is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



## STEWARDSHIP 2015

As I reflect on the New Year, I'm happy to confess that I am looking forward to a fresh start. Like others, I want to put the angst and activities behind us and pray for good health, happiness and prosperity going into the New Year. I find myself hoping for a renewal of sorts – and I know it starts with a spiritual one. I have felt most at peace over the course of the year when I am worshiping in our church, enjoying the services that Father Vasile tirelessly preaches with patience and kindness and “hope” that I can do better this year about renewing my strength through the church. I know some share in my thoughts.

When I pledged to commit to 2015, I prayed about what I

should give. Part of me said “oh, I have to give less – too many bills and unforeseen circumstances.” Then I realized that I have “made it through” all of my trials and tribulations because of my faith and love for God, our church and our parish. So, I pledged my first fruits with all of my heart and pray that everyone feels the same as me about devoting your time, talent and treasure this year.

We are off to a great start – to date (only January!!) we have 74 Stewards and \$187,522 pledged towards our goal of \$304,127. I ask that all of you complete your commitment cards and pledges for 2015 and continue to support St. John the Baptist

Greek Orthodox church, so that we can continue to grow our ministries and help others, as we are all lead to do.

I look forward to the New Year, fresh starts and sharing all of God's blessings with each and every one in the coming year.

Hope File,  
Stewardship Ministry



WE ARE OFF TO  
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WE HAVE  
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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](mailto:stjohndfw@gmail.com).

More info [here](#)





## YOUTH MINISTRIES

We are excited to resume classes and see our kids following the holiday break.

The GOYA has been busy with caroling and practicing for the January Basketball Tournament in Dallas. We hope parishioners will support them by attending their games the weekend of January 17 and 18.

The Oratorical Festival is around the corner – our local competition takes place February 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 have extended the deadline for the essays – we need to receive the rough drafts by Sunday, January 12. This will allow time for the presenters to work with coaches who will tweak the essays, as well as, help the students with the presentation.

Happy New Year!

Harriet Blake  
Youth Ministries  
Coordinator

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL:

JANUARY 4,  
CLASSES WILL  
RESUME.

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Families,

We had a great turnout for our Advent Retreat. Thank you to all the folks that pitched in and helped make a fabulous day.

Our Christmas Pageant was beautiful once again this year! BIG "Thank You" to Kirsten Shah for donating her time to our group of performers. We appreciate all of Kirsten's hard work and guidance.

January 4, classes will resume. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Thank you to the Barnes family for graciously hosting Coffee Hour in December. They put on a fabulous fasting friendly array of post-liturgical refreshments.

Upcoming Coffee Hour hosts:

January 4<sup>th</sup>-- The Bilbo Family and Veronica Fisher

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

We welcome new friends into Church School all year-round. Each classroom has extra forms and you may also download the registration

form and church school calendar from [www.stjohndfw.info](http://www.stjohndfw.info).

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

We look forward to a fabulous 2015!

Veronica Fisher

Church School Coordinator



# PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATE

Our Angel Tree was a big success this year!

Thanks to Linda Papadimitriou, Chairperson of Adopt-an-Angel Tree Project, and the thoughtfulness and generosity of our parishioners, we were able to provide food, gifts, and gift cards to five families at Christmas this year.

Each family was so appreciative of the support and asked that I extend their heartfelt thanks to all of those that made this possible. They felt blessed beyond measure.

Our Vasilopita Auction will be held Sunday, January 11, 2015, after church in the parish hall.

Come and bid on a Vasilopita to take home for your family.

This event is a fundraiser for St. Basil's Academy, which we help support.

Happy New Year to all,

Joannie Ruppel,  
Philoptochos Chapter President



THE  
PHILOPTOCHOS  
**VASILOPITA**  
AUCTION WILL  
BE HELD  
SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 11,  
2015,

# GOYA NEWS

In the past few months GOYA has been involved in many engaging and educational activities.

Back in the middle of November, some of us Goyans went to the Fall Lenten Retreat at Pine Cove where we were able to interact and learn with other Orthodox Christians our age. Everyone had a blast meeting new pals and making their existing relationships with friends deeper and stronger. We participated in group discussions that revolved around the scriptures from that day and we also had activities that involved the whole camp as well as recreational time to be with friends. All in all, it was a great experience that we hope every-

one can experience while they are still of Goyan age!

Recently, we went Christmas caroling and a majority of the carolers were new to the whole process, so it was nice to be able to show those newer Goyans the ropes. We had fun bonding and using those rusty pipes of ours, while Luca played the violin beautifully, to spread the joys of the birth of our Savior.

Some of us Goyans even helped narrate for the Christmas Pageant that was performed in front of the parish by the younger children in our church (and if I might add it was nothing less than adorable).

Lastly, we're almost wrapped

up with basketball practices because the tournament is really sneaking up on us (January 16th-18th 2015) and all the Goyans are beyond thrilled for this time of the year.

Thank you for all the donations throughout the year that have made our participation in the Goya Basketball Tournament possible. It will be a growing experience for all the members of our youth group!

Maria Tudora





Elder Porphyrios

## ECCLESIASTICAL MUSIC AGAINST DEPRESSION—ELDER PORPHYRIOS

Ecclesiastic music sanctifies the man without sacrifice. The ecclesiastical music is indeed an important mean to heal the wounded soul of the fallen man or the one overcome by passions. Elder Porphyrios from Kavsokalyvia says:

The ecclesiastical music is very beneficial to the soul. There should be no Christian that would not know ecclesiastical music. We all have to learn it. It has a direct link with our souls. Ecclesiastic music sanctifies man without sacrifice. Without labor, only rejoicing, you become holy.

Ecclesiastical music is an excellent remedy especially for the healing of depression. Ecclesiastical music is very efficient, it cures depression. At one time, the Elder says, king Saul has been overcome by a demon, and David was

playing for him from and the demon would leave. When he was overcome by the devil of depression, David was going to him with his psalter and was playing and the demon would run,. Where are those that run all over the place to find out a cure for their depression?

If we would learn the ecclesiastical music and we would see the darkness coming, we will sing a Glory and the darkness that comes to overcome us like a sort of melancholia of the soul, we'll turn into a praise to God. I believe this and with all my heart.

I tell you that a pious musician can transform any hard times in a new musical composition or can sing an existing one. In this way, rather than crying and being burdened, he brings a doxology to God.

A healthy person lives in harmony and harmony is virtue. The elder

was saying:

Ecclesiastical music is very easy when the soul loves it. Great is the benefit of the harmony that brings to the soul!

The one that knows music and has humility has the Grace of God. He is ready to get angry, to erupt, but he is afraid to disrupt the harmony because anger and all these sinful states do not match with harmony.

And in this way, step by step, he starts hating wickedness and learns to love virtue, that is harmony.

## WHAT IS THAT WORD? YPAKOE ?

Hypakoe is perhaps the most ancient title used by the Church to denote a piece of composed hymnography.

In Greek this word means "to be obedient," "to hear," "to respond."

Presently, the Hypakoe is the particular title of a hymn sung during Resurrectional Matins or Feasts. It varies according to the tone of the week from the Octoechos and on Sundays comes after the *Eulogeitaria* (resurrectional hymns which are sung together with the refrain from Ps. 119: "Blessed art Thou, O

*Lord, teach me Thy statutes.*" )

The Ypakoë used at one of the Great Feasts will be written in the tone of the hymnographer's choice.

The Ypakoë, as its name suggests, illustrates the theme of being sent to proclaim the Gospel; and in particular the Resurrection of Jesus by the Myrrh-bearers (Sundays and Pascha) or the theme of the particular Feast being celebrated.

The Hypakoe of Pascha is the one most commonly known. It is sung after the third ode of the Paschal Canon, during the Paschal Hours, and again after the Little Entrance at

Divine Liturgy. According to tradition was composed by the Emperor Leo the Wise

*"Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do ye seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One Who is Everlasting Light? Behold the clothes in the grave! Go, and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen! He hath slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man."*

Compiled from various sources



## BAPTISM OF CHRIST | THE THEOPHANY ICON

From the first century of the Christian Church, there has always been “The Festival of Lights”. In the depth of Mid-winter, this feast celebrated the advent of the Son of God’s coming into the world as Jesus Christ, and His early years up to and including His baptism in the Jordan, which heralded the beginning of Jesus’ ministry on earth.

Over the centuries, the various aspects of Christ’s early years were separated into individual feasts on different days: His Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, His presentation in the Temple, and His circumcision. But the principal event of the Feast of Lights – Christ’s Baptism – continued to be commemorated on the 6th of January. Why is this event so important?

The event depicted in the icon is that described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke; here is Matthew’s version:

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

(Matthew 3:13-17)

This, then, is the Epiphany (revelation) of the Holy Trinity, otherwise known as

Theophany which literally means a “revelation of God” in Greek (Θεοφάνεια; the Russian is БОГОЯВЛЕНИЕ and means the same).

The paradox that Jesus Christ might be revealed as God through an act of submittal to a mere man, John, is shown well in the Icon. Though John is baptizing Christ, it is the former who is shown bent over in reverence to the latter. In other icons, John is shown with his face turned toward heaven and beholding the miracle of the Theophany; either way, despite being the baptizer, he is not central to the scene. Near to John is a tree with an axe laid at the root, recalling John’s own preaching to those who came to him: *“And now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”* (Matt 3:10).

Present in the icon, this shows that whilst the Baptizer must now “decrease so Christ may increase”, John’s teachings and role are not done away with now the Holy Trinity has been revealed. On the opposite bank to John the Baptist, angels wait invisibly to receive the newly baptized Christ and clothe Him. And so, on the left is the forerunner of Christ, John, with his sermon of repentance represented by the tree and axe; on the right, the angels wait with reverence to accept the newly revealed Son of God. In the middle – the moment of revelation itself.

Jesus Christ, despite being the one submerged in the Jordan, is shown as though standing up and staring straight at us. His

body is depicted as strong and beautiful, as it is understood classically, and in older icons He is naked. Christ appears almost as wide as the river Jordan itself; indeed: it is as though it is Jesus Christ, rather than the river, which cuts a swathe through the rocky wilderness on either side.

The Icon of the Theophany, as well as depicting the Holy Trinity, also answers the question of John the Baptist: I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me? The answer is in what Jesus does with His hands. Whilst in Western art, like this painting by Da Vinci, Jesus is shown as submitting to John’s authority, in Orthodox icons Christ’s hands are not shown in prayer, but in a sign of blessing. Rather than the waters of Jordan cleansing Christ, it is Christ Who cleans the waters. This is why in the bottom of most Theophany Icons, little creatures appear to be fleeing from the feet of Christ. This is a reflection of the words of the Psalmist regarding the Messiah (Christ): *“the sea saw and fled, the Jordan turned back”* (Psalm 114:3).

This is the depth and profundity of the Baptism of Christ; the feast of lights which revealed the Holy Trinity, and cleansed the waters of baptism so that we, like the fishes shown in the icon, may swim in pure waters.

*Of old, the river Jordan  
Turned back before Elisha’s mantle  
at Elijah’s ascension.*

*The waters were parted in two  
And the waterway became a dry  
path. This is truly a symbol of bap-  
tism by which we pass through this  
mortal life. Christ has appeared in  
the Jordan to sanctify the waters!*

Read more [here](#)

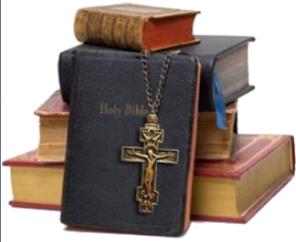


Icon of Theophany

CHRIST HAS  
APPEARED IN  
THE JORDAN  
TO SANCTIFY  
THE WATERS!



The Jordan (left) and the Sea, which is also represented as a woman wearing a crown, or as a monster



AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Monday, January 12, 2015, at 11:30a.m. at the church hall for a potluck luncheon and planning meeting. We are privileged to have as our guest speaker Retired General Harry Karegeannes, whose topic will be "My trip to Moscow in 1991". Please put the date on your calendar and plan to come for an informative afternoon!! I want to thank everyone who donated to the Christmas Gift Card program. It was great!! I'll be in touch with everyone soon.

Have a very happy New Year!!! Margaret

CATECHISM CLASSES AND *LIBRARY PROJECT*

**Catechism and faith Enrichment Classes**, continues into the New year. First Class into the New Year is January 11. Classes are held 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 [szabak@gmail.com](mailto:szabak@gmail.com) for details.

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

**DONATE A BOOK TODAY.**

USHER SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday: Tim Cline, Nancy Medic—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

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.

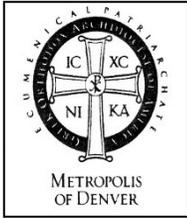
Wash off hall tables and kitchen counters.

Thank-You



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**JANUARY 2015**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
<p><i>Fasting Symbols</i></p> <p> <i>Strict Fast</i></p> <p> <i>Wine/Oil Allowed</i></p> <p> <i>Fast Free</i></p> <p> <i>Fish Allowed</i></p>				 <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>St. Basil the Great</b> <b>Circumcision of Christ</b>  <i>Orthros 8:30</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i>	 <i>Pope Sylvester</i> <i>Komas Patriarch Of Constantinople</i>	<i>Great Vespers 5pm</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Sunday Before Theophany</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i>	 <i>Eve of Theophany</i>  <i>Vespertal Liturgy and Small blessing of Waters 6:00 pm</i>	<i>Holy Theophany</i>  <i>Orthros 5:00 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy &amp; Great Blessing of the Water 6:00 am</i>  <i>Vigil 6:00 pm</i>	 <i>Synaxis of John the Baptist</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 am</i>	<i>George the Chozebite</i> <i>Dominica the Righteous</i>	 <i>Martyr Polyuctos</i> <i>Eustratios the Wonderworker</i>	<i>Gregory of Nyssa</i> <i>Dometian, Bishop of Melitene</i>  <i>Great Vespers 5pm</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Sunday After Theophany</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i>  <b>Church Name Day Luncheon</b>	<i>Holy Martyr Tatiana</i> <i>Martyr Mertios</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 am</i>	<i>Hermilos &amp; Stratonikos</i> <i>Maximos the Righteous</i>  <i>Vespers 6:00 pm</i>	 <i>Apodosis of Theophany</i> <i>Fathers Slain at Sinai &amp; Raith</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 am</i>	<i>Paul of Thebes</i> <i>John the Cave Dweller</i>	 <i>Veneration of the Chains of the Apostle Peter</i> <i>Makarios Kalogeras of Patmos</i>	<i>Anthony the Great</i> <i>Anthony of Beroea</i>  <i>Great Vespers 5pm</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>12th. Sunday of Luke (Ten Lepers)</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30am</i>	<i>Makarios the Great of Egypt</i> <i>Mark of Ephesus</i>	<i>Euthymios the Great</i> <i>Zacharias</i> <i>New Martyr of Patra</i>	 <i>Maximos the Confessor</i> <i>Martyr Neophytos</i>  <i>Paraklesis 6pm</i>	<i>Timothy of the 70</i> <i>Martyr Anastasios the Persian</i>	 <i>Hieromartyr Clement of Ancyra</i> <i>Martyr Agathangelos</i>	<i>Xenia, Deaconess of Rome</i> <i>Hieromartyr Babylas</i>  <i>Great Vespers 5pm</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>15th. Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus)</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30 am</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 am</i>	<i>Xenophon &amp; His Companions</i> <i>Symeon the Elder</i>	<i>Translation of the Relic of John Chrysostom</i> <i>Peter the Righteous of Egypt</i>	 <i>Ephraim the Syrian</i> <i>Isaac the Syrian</i>  <i>Paraklesis 6pm</i>	<i>Translation of the Relics of Ignatius the Godbearer</i> <i>Laurence of the Kiev Caves</i>  <i>Vigil 6:00 pm</i>	 <i>The Holy Three Hierarchs</i> <i>Hippolytos of Rome</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 am</i>	<i>Unmercenaries</i> <i>Cyrus &amp; John</i> <i>Martyrs Theodote, Theoctiste &amp; Eudoxia</i>  <i>Great Vespers 5pm</i>



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

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

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The Holy Theophany  
January 6, 2015



**THE FORERUNNER**  
Vol. XXXI No. 1 January 2015

