

*SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016*  
*Sunday before Theophany*

**Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Tone**

Angelic powers were above Your tomb, and they that guarded You became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Your immaculate Body. You have despoiled Hades and were not tried thereby. You did meet the Virgin and did grant us life. O You Who did arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

**Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Theophany in the Fourth Tone**

Be you ready, Zabulon; prepare yourself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay your course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who comed now to be baptized. O Adam, be you glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as you did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He has appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ has appeared, for He truly wills to renew all creation.

**Hymn of the Annunciation in the First Tone**

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

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

**Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Tone**

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all cries to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

**FASTING THIS WEEK**

On Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday we are fast free. On Tuesday and Friday we observe a strict fast.



**ANNUNCIATION GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest  
Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016**

We welcome you to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and are blessed that you have come to our worship service. We hope that this worship experience is both enlightening and inspirational. Each Sunday is the day in which we commemorate the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are a visitor to our Parish we encourage you to follow the Divine Liturgy book to assist you in following the Liturgy. Please understand that the Christian Orthodox Church does not practice inter-communion with other Christian denominations. Though we may share a common belief in the Holy Trinity, our churches are not yet one in faith and practice. We believe that Holy Communion is not the means to Christian unity but it is in fact the fullest expression of that unity. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every divine service of the Orthodox Church. Please do not approach for Holy Communion if you are not a baptized/chrismated Orthodox Christian. Feel free to contact Father Simon if you desire to learn more about the Christian Orthodox Church, the Church of the New Testament.

We would like to remind all Orthodox Christians to be spiritually prepared and in proper canonical standing with the Church in order to partake of the Holy Eucharist.

***THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS***

On this the 3rd day of the month of January, we commemorate Malachi the Prophet, Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea, Righteous Genevieve of Paris, Righteous Peter of Atroas, Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker, Righteous thomais of Lesbos and the Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

By their holy intercessions, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## EPISTLE READING - 2ND TIMOTHY 4:5-8

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.  
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Brethren, As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. <sup>6</sup>For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Elpis Board Meeting** Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30 pm in the Library
  - ◆ **DOP Board Meeting** Friday, January 8 @ 10:30 am - See Anastasia Terranova for location.
  - ◆ **AHEPA Meeting** Saturday, **January 9** at 9:00 am at Picadilly Cafeteria at 3425 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, 38111
  - ◆ **Sunday School Classes** Resume January 10 at 11:00 am
  - ◆ **DOP Monthly Meeting** Sunday, January 10 at 12:00 noon in Cotros Hall immediately following Coffee Hour
  - ◆ **Father Vieron's Adult Greek Class** begins on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 pm - Please see him for registration.
  - ◆ **Parish Council Meeting** Monday, January 18 at 6:15 pm
  - ◆ **Young at Heart Luncheon** Thursday, January 21 at 11:30 am
  - ◆ **Elpis Girls' Night Out** Friday, **January 22 at 6:00 pm**
  - ◆ **Elpis General Meeting** Sunday, January 23 immediately following Divine Liturgy
- SAVE THE DATE:**
- ◆ **AGAPE Godparent Luncheon** Sunday February 7
  - ◆ **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival** Saturday February 13
  - ◆ **Young at Heart Valentine Party** with Mike Miller Thursday, February 18
  - ◆ **APOKREAS Dinner/Talent Show & Costume Contest** Sunday March 6
  - ◆ **ELPIS Art Show** Saturday March 12

## GOSPEL READING - MATTHEW 2:13-23

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.<sup>[a]</sup><sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,<sup>[b]</sup> "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way;<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—" <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared<sup>[c]</sup> in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

### THIS WEEK'S SERVERS

**Epistle Reader:** Scott McKee  
**Prosfora:** Enosis Touliatos  
**Vasilopita:** Anna Denton, Zoe Anaston, Bill Gikas  
**Usher Duty:** Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras  
**Greeters:** Sarkis & Jenny Kish  
**Coffee Hour** hosted by Elpis Philoptochos for Vasilopita Sunday

## *THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE*

### **Sunday, January 3**

#### **Vasilopita Sunday**

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **No Sunday School today**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour Hosted by Elpis**
- ◆ **GOYA Meeting 12:00 Noon**

### **Monday, January 4**

- ◆ **Greek School 12:00 Noon**

### **Tuesday, January 5 Eve of Epiphany**

- ◆ **Royal Hours 8:30 am**
- ◆ **Vespers Divine Liturgy 10:00 am**
- ◆ **Blessing of the Waters 11:00 am**
- ◆ **Greek School 4:00 pm**
- ◆ **Elpis Board Meeting 6:30 pm**

### **Wednesday, January 6 Feast of Epiphany**

- ◆ **Orthros 9:00 am**
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy 10:00 am**
- ◆ **Blessing of the Waters 11:00 am**
- ◆ **Greek School 2:00 pm**

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

- ◆ **Orthros 9:00 am**
- ◆ **Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**
- ◆ **Girl Scouts 3:30 pm**

### **Friday, January 8**

- ◆ **DOP Board Meeting 10:30 am - See Anastasia for Meeting Location**
- ◆ **Greek School 4:00 pm**

### **Saturday, January 9**

- ◆ **AHEPA Meeting 9:00 am - Piccadilly Cafeteria at 3425 Poplar Ave.**

### **Sunday, January 10 Sunday After Epiphany**

- ◆ **Orthros 8:45 am; Divine Liturgy following**
- ◆ **1 Year Memorial for Peggy Capadalis**
- ◆ **Nursery Available 9:30 am - 12:00 Noon**
- ◆ **Sunday School Spring Classes begin today 11:00 am**
- ◆ **Coffee Hour Hosted by Daughters of Penelope**
- ◆ **DOP Monthly Meeting immediately following Coffee Hour**