



Sunday Bulletin January 8, 2017 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-Proistamenos

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### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. First Mode. Psalm 32.22,1.**

**Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.**

**Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13**

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 4:12-17**

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Message from Fr. Michael...*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

As this is the Sunday following the feast of our Lord's Holy Theophany, we reflect back at what everyone witnessed at the time of our Lord's Holy Theophany. Those who were on the banks of the Jordan River, witnessed the manifestation of the incarnation of our Lord. They witnessed our Saviour as both Man and God. All righteousness was fulfilled when St. John baptized the Lord in the Jordan River. The water was so affected by the Lord's immersion that it caused itself to flow backwards. This reverse flow of the Jordan has persisted since that time! The Blessed Holy Trinity was there for all to see. God the Father parted the Heavens as God the Son came out of the water. The voice of God the Father proclaimed "This is my Beloved Son of Whom I am well pleased." God the Holy Spirit appeared overhead in the form of a dove. Thus, the Triune God appeared to all. There was no doubt! There was no negotiation! Our God in His complete form was present! He was there for all to witness. We were sprinkled with the water of the Jordan, the very water which Baptized our Lord Jesus, for those of us who came to Church this past Wednesday on the feast of the Lord's Holy Theophany. We remember that during the Divine Liturgy, we sang, "For as many that are baptized in Christ, put on Christ! Alleluia." By being sprinkled with the Holy Water, the Aghiasmo, we essentially put Christ on ourselves. In doing so, we give Glory to The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. We become one with the Lord!

I am available for home blessings, if you desire a home blessing, please call me or speak to Presbyteria Kimberly so that we may arrange a mutually convenient time for this. The only requirements are as follows:

-a clean home with removal of clutter to prevent tripping and falling while the home is being blessed

-all dogs must be kept away from the priest as the sight of a stranger wearing a black cassock or robe tends to make dogs aggressive

-it is recommended that all those who reside at the home be present during this blessing

-all bathroom doors are to be closed

Please do not offer food to the Priest (he is on a diet! 😊 )

We pray that the illumination cast by the recent celebration of the feast of the Lord's Theophany continues to shine on our path leading us to righteousness and to the grace of our Lord.

Prayerfully in His service,  
+Fr. Michael

## **George of Hozeva**

Saint George lived about the beginning of the ninth century in Palestine, in a certain monastery called Hozeva, which lies in a great ravine between Jerusalem and Jericho.

### **Apolytikion of George of Hozeva in the First Tone**

Thou didst prove to be a citizen of the desert, an angel in the flesh, and a wonderworker, O George, our God-bearing Father. By fasting, vigil, and prayer thou didst obtain heavenly gifts, and thou healest the sick and the souls of them that have recourse to thee with faith. Glory to Him that hath given thee strength. Glory to Him that hath crowned thee. Glory to Him that worketh healings for all through thee.

## **Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople**

Saint Domnica was from Carthage. During the reign of the Emperor Theodosius the Great, she came with four other virgins to Constantinople, where she was baptized by Nectarius, the Patriarch of Constantinople. She remained in Constantinople and became known for her extreme asceticism, the miracles that she worked, and the grace of prophecy that adorned her. She lived until the days of the Emperors Leo and Zeno, reposing in peace about the year 474.

## **Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Apolytikion of Sun. after Epiphany in the First Tone**

At Your Baptism in the Jordan, O Lord, \* worship of the Trinity was revealed, \* for the Father's voice bore witness to You, \* calling You His 'beloved Son,' \* and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of these words. \* O Christ God, Who appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!

### **Kontakion of Sun. after Epiphany in the Fourth Tone**

You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, \* and Your light, O Lord has been marked upon us \* who with knowledge sing Your praise. \* You have come, You are made manifest, \* the Light that no man can approach.

FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbytera Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

Today, Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the conclusion of Divine Services, we will have the annual auctioning off of the Vasilopitas in our Fellowship Hall as well as the cutting of the Vasilopita for our beloved faithful. Donations and proceeds from this auction will be dispersed to St. Basil Academy and orphanage. We thank our beloved Philoptochos chapter as they continue to be charitable and do God's work by helping those in need. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity and philanthropy. Please join us today.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the coffee hour fellowship, so that this can continue. Please see Steve Anastos, or any parish council member, to volunteer. Thank you.

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.