



Sunday Bulletin January 8, 2023
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, when 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 of 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 Savior 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 are sprinkled with the water of the Jordan, the very water which Baptized our Lord Jesus, for those of us who came to Church today 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! During the feast of Theophany we entered into the Jordan River with Him and we pray that the sins that we carry will be thoroughly washed away.

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

## Saints and Feasts Commemorated

### Sunday after Epiphany

#### 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.

#### 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.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Theodore Kermidas (son of John and Cassie), Ted Simon, Maria Lambrinos, Angelo Romas, Dino and Diamando Maniates, Mitry Ganim, and Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon. 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.

#### **Aghiasmo (Holy Water):**

Is available for everyone (Orthodox faithful only) to take home: However, it is limited to two bottles per family (one for each husband and one for each wife to share with their family)! Please do not take extra bottles for anyone outside of the nuclear family. Aghiasmo is available throughout the year so if anyone is not in church they may come to church at a later date to receive this.

**Hint:** It is very easy to replenish your supply of holy water as all you need is a drop or two of holy water placed in a small empty bottle and you may reconstitute the bottle by filling it with tap water.

#### **At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a 3 year Memorial Service for Panagiotis Negros.**

(Husband of Athena Negros and Brother of Kostas Negros). May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go to the Negros family.

**The Philoptochos Society will be auctioning off Vasilopita** in our fellowship hall today during coffee hour. The funds acquired from the auction are being donated to St. Basil Academy to help the children there.

**Altar Servers needed:**

Any boys (7 years or older in age) interested in serving regularly in the altar as altar servers please see Fr. Michael.

**March 25th Celebration Weekend (patronal feast weekend of our Church):**

Friday, March 24th: Great Vespers on the Eve of the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos at 7 pm

Saturday, March 25th: Feast of the Annunciation – Orthros at 9 am  
Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Sunday, March 26th: Orthros at 9 am Divine Liturgy at 10 am

March 25th Poems and Speeches will be conducted by our children on Sunday, March 26th during the Coffee Hour

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS**

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411.

**Wisdom of the Fathers**

Take heed, then, often to come together to give thanks to God, and show forth His praise. For when ye assemble frequently in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and the destruction at which he aims is prevented by the unity of your faith.

**St. Ignatius of Antioch**

Epistle to the Ephesians Ch. 13, 2nd century

For as persons not even knowing where to put a step forward, so they sat, overtaken by the darkness.

**St. John Chrysostom**

Homily 14 on Matthew 4, 4th Century

*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.*