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Sunday, January 11th, 2015

## Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Sunday after Theophany

### WHAT IS LIFE

*Life is a challenge... meet it*

*Life is a gift ... accept it*

*Life is an adventure ... dare it*

*Life is a sorrow ... overcome it*

*Life is a tragedy ... face it*

*Life is a game ... play it*

*Life is a duty ... perform it*

*Life is a mystery ... unfold it*

*Life is a song ... sing it*

*Life is opportunity ... take it*

*Life is a journey ... complete it*

*Life is a promise ... fulfill it*

*Life is a beauty ... praise it*

*Life is a struggle ... Fight it*

*Life is a goal ... Achieve it*

*Life is a puzzle... Solve it*

### COMING UP...

- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos Society:*  
**Mon. Jan.. 12th**  
**BOARD MEETING**
- ♦ *Hellenic-American:*  
**Tues. Jan. 13th**  
**7PM MEETING**
- ♦ *Choir: Wed. Jan*  
**14th 6PM**  
**PRACTICE**
- ♦ **Dinner Dance Gala:**  
**Sat. Jan. 17th**  
Cocktails/Appitzers  
6:30PM  
Dinner 7PM-8PM  
Music/Dancing  
8PM-11PM
- ♦ *Hellenic-American:*  
**Tues. Jan. 20th**  
**8AM-6PM**  
**"THE HOLY LAND"**  
**in Orlando**
- ♦ *Parish Council:*  
**Tues. Jan. 20th**  
**6PM MEETING**
- ♦ *Choir: Wed. Jan*  
**21st 6PM**  
**PRACTICE**
- ♦ *Ladies Philoptochos Society:*  
**Mon. Jan.. 12th**  
**BOARD MEETING**

### **HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER– Please follow Ushers Instructions**

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church.

**Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

## **2ND TRAY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Our Church passes 2 offering trays. The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget, the 2nd tray will continue for the NEW Education Building Fund until paid in Full. In order to receive credit for your donation, for income tax purposes, make sure to put your cash donation in an envelope with your name on it or pay by check.

### **EPISTLE READING**

#### **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**

#### **The Gospel of 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."

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion**

The Angelic Powers were before Thy tomb,  
Ἀγγελικαὶ Δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνημάσου, (Page 45)

### **Apolytikion for the Saint**

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O O Theodosios our devout father. Our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

Ταῖς τῶν δακρύων σου ροαῖς, τῆς ἐρήμου τὸ ἄγονον ἐγεώργησας, καὶ τοῖς ἐκ βάθους στεναγμοῖς, εἰς ἑκατὸν τοὺς πόνους ἐκαρποφόρησας, καὶ γέγονας φωστήρ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, λάμπων τοῖς θαύμασιν· Ὅσπερ Πατὴρ ἡμῶν Θεοδόσιε, πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### **Apolytikion for the Feast**

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνή

προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

### **Kontakion**

You appeared today to us on earth, O Master, and Your light was signed on us who cry aloud to You and say with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε. Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

## **SAINTS COMMEMORATED**

### **TODAY, THURSDAY JANUARY 4th**

- Our righteous Theodosius the Cenobiarch
- Vitalis of Gaza
- Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION: HYMNS AND WHERE THEY CAN BE FOUND**

Hymns of Divine Liturgy insert can be found in the pews to allow you to follow along. The hymns in the bulletin will be the variable ones specific to that week or change from the common hymns that you will find in the insert located in the pews.

## **Our Savior, God and Man: by St. Theophan the Recluse**

We confess one and the same individual as perfect God and perfect Man. He is God the Word Which was flesh.

For if He was not flesh, why was Mary chosen? And if He is not God, whom does Gabriel call Lord?

If He was not flesh, who was laid in a manger? And if He is not God, whom did the angels who came down from heaven glorify?

If He was not flesh, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? And if He is not God, in whose honor did the star appear?

If He was not flesh, whom did Simeon hold in his arms? And if He is not God, to whom did Simeon say: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace?

If He was not flesh, whom did Joseph take when he fled into Egypt? And if He is not God, who fulfilled the prophesy: Out of Egypt have I called my Son?

If He was not flesh, whom did John baptize? And if He is not God, to whom did the Father say: This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased?

If He was not flesh, who hungered in the desert? And if He is not God, unto whom did the angels come and minister?

If He was not flesh, who was invited to the marriage in Cana of Galilee? And if He is not God, who turned the water into wine?

If He was not flesh, who took the loaves in the desert? And if He is not God, who fed the five thousand men and their women and children with five loaves and two fish?

If He was not flesh, who slept in the ship? And if He is not God, who rebuked the waves and the sea?

If He was not flesh, with whom did Simon the Pharisee sit at meat? And if He is not God, who forgave the sins of the harlot?

If He was not flesh, who wore a man's garment? And if He is not God, who healed the woman with an issue of blood when she touched His garment?

If He was not flesh, who spat on the ground and made clay? And if He is not God, who gave sight to the eyes of the blind man with that clay?

If He was not flesh, who wept at Lazarus' grave? And if He is not God, who commanded him to come forth out of the grave four days after his death?

If He was not flesh, whom did the Jews arrest in the garden? And if He is not God, who cast them to the ground with the words: I am He?

If He was not flesh, who was judged before Pilate? And if He is not God, who frightened Pilate's wife in a dream?

If He was not flesh, whose garments were stripped from Him and parted by the soldiers? And if He is not God, why was the sun darkened upon His crucifixion?

If He was not flesh, who was crucified on the cross? And if He is not God, who shook the foundations of the earth?

If He was not flesh, whose hands and feet were nailed to the cross? And if He is not God, how did it happen that the veil of the temple was rent in twain, the rocks were rent, and the graves were opened?

If He was not flesh, who hung on the cross between two thieves? And if He is not God, how could He say to the thief: Today thou shalt be with me in paradise?

If He was not flesh, who cried out and gave up the ghost? And if He is not God, whose cry caused the many bodies of the saints which slept to arise?

If He was not flesh, whom did the women see laid in a grave? And if He is not God, about whom did the angels say to them: He has arisen, He is not here?

If He was not flesh, whom did Thomas touch when he put his hands into the prints of the nails? And if He is not God, who entered through the doors that were shut?

If He was not flesh, who ate at the sea of Tiberias? And if He is not God, on whose orders were the nets filled with fishes?

If He was not flesh, whom did the apostles see carried up into heaven? And if He is not God, who ascended to the joyful cries of the angels, and to whom did the Father proclaim: sit at My right hand?

If He is not God and man then, indeed, our salvation is false, and false are the pronouncements of the prophets.

But we know Him and we proclaim Him: our Savior, both God and Man!



## VASILOPITA (ST. BASIL) BREAD

**TODAY**, fundraiser for St. Basil's Academy in Garrison New York following Divine Liturgy. Sponsored by our Ladies Philoptochos Society.

### MEMORIAL

Today, we offer a 3 year Memorial for the servant of God, Epamin Vastardis, brother of Artemis Welsh. May his memory be eternal. Artemis is bringing in some goodies for coffee hour in his honor.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Joanna Karras and Andrew Pastrokos on their engagement! Happy parents are Nick and Stella Karras and Rev. Fr. Nick and Pres. Sandy Pastrokos of New Jersey.

### LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

On behalf of the Ladies Philoptochos Society with our President Ginny Amend, we would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Happy New Year and Blessed 2015. May we all enjoy the gifts our Lord has given us each and everyday. See you next year 2015!

### HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB:

Happy New Year to all our dear friends and members and all our parishioners. Our first meeting of 2015 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fr. Arthur Kontinos Community Center. We are inviting all to attend, become a member and join in the fun. We will be discussing the upcoming events which are already scheduled, as well as welcoming new ideas. Also, save the date: February 5th. Panigiri – Greek Picnic – Fund Raiser for our new Classroom Building. Details to be announced in future Bulletins.

### DANCE TROUPE

\$50 enrollment fee to include dancer tee shirt & costume cleaning fees. Dance director; Georgia Kline, 239-898-3138 ([gpeach725@aol.com](mailto:gpeach725@aol.com)) fellow instructors; Cassandra DiStefano, Alaina Todd & Kalianna Karras (*when available*).

**Name of Troupe:** HARA TIS ELLADAS - JOY OF GREECE

**Practice Times;** Agape "Love" (preK - Grade 2). Sun. after church 45-60 min. Kardia "Heart" (Grades 3-6). Monday & Thursday 5:30-6:30 Thiname "Strength" (Grades 7-12). Mon. & Thurs. 6:30-8:00

**Please note:** All groups will practice on Sundays additionally. You will receive notifications or modifications if any occur in the future.

### 10th ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE 2015



Don't forget to Win Big by making your donation for a \$50 Car Raffle ticket. 2014 WINNERS pictured here with Stella Karras, Chairwoman and Rev. Constantine Nastos. It could be U in this picture in less than 40 days. Proceeds benefit the Office Complex Building Fund. Get yours in the Church Hall today or see any Parish Council Member.

### DOLLAR \$\$ CASH RAFFLE TICKETS

Spend \$5 Bucks & Test Your Luck!!

\$5 for a book of 6 tickets

### \$\$\$ CASH PRIZES \$\$\$

\$1000--1st Prize • \$500 -2nd Prize • \$250-3rd & 4th Prizes

**Winners drawn on Feb. 22, at the Festival. Our Mission?**

**Sell out 7,000 like last year. Let's Do This!!**

**Help Sell by Calling Tina Kucera at 239-980-1520.**

### RELIGIOUS ED

Effective **TODAY**, students in all Religious Ed Classes OTHER than the Teen Class, will worship in Church at 10am and then go to the Fellowship Hall for Classes from 10:15am **until** Communion time.

The Teen Class students should begin with worship in Church at 10am until Communion time, and then proceed to the Fellowship Hall **after** Holy Communion for their classes until 11:30am. This will continue for at least 4 weeks. Please be prompt as to not interrupt valuable class time.



### Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Kostantia Tsolakis, Eugenia Loughney, Terry Kalogridis, Louis Eftim, Sophia Katsaris, Doug and Tina Kucera, Jonathan Finley, John Kontinos & Penelope Kontinos.

*Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099*