

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

January 1, 2017

## Sunday after Nativity Circumcision of Jesus Christ St. Basil the Great Sunday before Theophany

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading Colossians 2:8-12

Gospel Reading Luke: 2:20-21, 40-52

Creed

The Lord's Prayer

Communion Prayers (Before receiving)

Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)

Pamphlet

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**Note: All are welcome to receive the Blessed Bread (Antidoron), but only practicing Orthodox Christians can receive Holy Communion.**

Memorial Service

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### Today's Calendar

- There will be no Coffee Hour today.
- Parish Council members on duty: John Grillakis, Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios, Anna Manetta

### This Week

**Friday, January 6 - Holy Theophany – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy**  
**Saturday, January 7 – Synaxis of St. John the Baptist – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy**

### For Our Edification

#### House Blessings

During the weeks following Holy Theophany, Father Nick will be blessing homes and businesses. Please call the office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule an appointment.

#### Philoptochos Reminder

The Philoptochos Ladies will not meet during the months of January and February.

#### Circumcision of Jesus Christ

Because Christ was born into the Jewish religion, Joseph and Mary followed traditional Jewish custom: “And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given Him by the angel.” (Luke 2:21)

#### St. Basil the Great

St Basil was one of Christianity's most eloquent speakers and writers. He set up rules for monastic life and established many charitable institutions. He authored the Liturgy of St. Basil, which is performed on solemn occasions, including January 1, the day when he fell asleep in the Lord in 379 A.D.

#### Holy Theophany

This Feast Day, also known as Epiphany, is the end of the holiday season. Both terms refer to the manifestation of God, since it was on this day that Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, and received the Holy Spirit, which descended from Heaven in the form of a Dove. Epiphany, celebrated in many Western Churches, marks the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem, and is thus the first time that God revealed Himself in human form to the Gentiles.

On the Feast of Theophany, the priest performs the Great Blessing of the Water. Although the same service can be performed on both days, January 5<sup>th</sup> is a strict fast day, while there is no fasting on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Holy Spirit is invoked to sanctify the water, and the Cross is dipped into it to commemorate Christ's immersion in the Jordan River.

#### Holy Water

According to Orthodox doctrine, Holy Water has the power to sanctify and heal. Have each family member drink a small amount of Holy Water from Theophany/Epiphany and/or home blessing. Keep the unused Holy Water in your home Iconostasis for future use: times of adversity, before starting a new venture or trip, to give thanks, or when someone is ill. You may drink it and/or put it on an afflicted part of the body.

#### Church Office has Moved

The office is now located at the Hellenic American Academy. Please call (978) 458-8092 to schedule an appointment.