

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

January 7, 2018

## *Synaxis of John the Baptist*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading Acts 19:1-8

Gospel Reading John

Pamphlet

The Lord's Prayer

Page 26

Communion Prayers (Before receiving)

Pages 29-30

Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)

Pages 33-34

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

Memorial Service

Page 164

### Today's Calendar

- **Memorials: 3-year for Venus Sampson; 36-year for Charles Sampson**
- **Cutting of the Vasilopita and Coffee Hour are being sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.**
- **Today's second collection will be for St. Basil's Academy.**
- **Parish Council members on duty: Damon Manettas, Joan Metropolis, Betty Themeles, Tina Themeles**

### This Week

**Thursday, January 12- Parish Council Meeting – Parish Hall – 6:30 pm**

### For Our Edification

#### **House & Business 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.

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### **Change in Service for Three Hierarchs**

In order for the students at the Hellenic American Academy to perform their program for the Three Hierarchs at the Hellenic Cultural Center on Monday, January 30, at 10:30 am, Orthros will begin at 8:00 am with Divine Liturgy to follow at 9:00 am.

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### **Paint Night Planned**

The Hellenic American Academy PTA is presenting a Paint Night on Friday, January 13, 7:00 pm, at the Hellenic Cultural Center. Admission is \$35 per person and includes all materials, appetizers and desserts. Please bring your own beverages. For those who choose not to paint, the admission will be \$10 per person and will include the appetizers and desserts. For more information, contact Althea at [althea\\_anag@yahoo.com](mailto:althea_anag@yahoo.com) or (978) 758-0656.

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### **Coffee Hours Available**

Hosts for the following Coffee Hours are needed: January 22 and January 29. Please call the Church office at (978) 458-8092 to schedule. Take this opportunity to provide fellowship following the Divine Liturgy. This is an excellent way to meet with old friends and to make new acquaintances.

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### **Philoptochos Note**

There will be no meeting of the Philoptochos in February. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 6.

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### **Legend of the Vasilopita**

The Vasilopita commemorates a miracle performed by St. Basil while serving as a bishop. The legend varies as to how he became the guardian of the gold, silver, and jewelry of the people of Caesarea. Some say thieves had taken the valuables from the village, and they were recovered. Others say it was a tax the government asked St. Basil to collect, but then decided to cancel. In either case, he became responsible for returning the riches to the people. However, they could not agree on the rightful owners. St. Basil suggested that the women bake the valuables inside a large pita. When he cut the pita, each owner miraculously received the right valuable. Today a single coin is baked inside each loaf to honor this miracle, and the recipient has good luck for the coming year.

Vasilopita may be either bread or a cake, depending on the region of Greece from which your family originated. Some regions use the recipe for Easter bread but decorate the top differently. Others make a rich, sweet cake. All versions are round and include a lucky coin.