

# Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

December 31, 2017

## *Sunday before Theophany*

### SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	II Timothy 4:5-8	Page 125
Gospel Reading	Mark 1:1-8	Page 125
Creed		Pamphlet
The Lord's Prayer		Page 26
Communion Prayers (Before receiving)		Pages 29-30
Thanksgiving Prayers (After receiving)		Pages 33-34
Memorial Service		Page 164

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

### Today's Calendar

- Philoptochos is hosting today's Coffee Hour.
- Parish Council members on duty: Tina Themeles, Tom Themeles, Greg Curtis, John Grillakis

### Monday - January 1, 2018

St. Basil the Great

Circumcision of Christ

Orthros at 9:00 am; Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

- Parish Council members on duty: Charles Hondros, Paris Karahalios

### This Week

Saturday, January 6 - Holy Theophany – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### For Our Edification

#### Philoptochos News

Next Sunday, January 7, Fr. Nick will cut the parish's Vasilopita at the end of Divine Liturgy. The Philoptochos Ladies will be hosting the Coffee Hour.

On Sunday, February 11, the Meat Fare Sunday Spaghetti Luncheon will follow the Divine Liturgy.

The Philoptochos cookbook, *Treasured Recipes from Our Greek Kouzines*, is available for purchase for \$25. Please see Theodora Stathopoulos during Coffee Hour.

The monthly Philoptochos meeting will resume in March.

### 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.

### 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.

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.

### New Calendar Year

As the old year closes and the New Year begins, let us take measure of our blessings. We alone know what our blessings are. Hopefully, we will consider our membership within our Church community to be among our blessings.

### Reminder

There is no fasting between December 25 and January 4.