

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 1:29-34
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

- Cutting of the Vasilopita and Coffee Hour are being sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos Society.
- Parish Council members on duty: Joan Metropolis, Lawrence Rocha, Betty Themeles, Tom Themeles

This Week

Thursday, January 11- Parish Council Meeting – Parish Hall – 6:30 pm

For Our Edification

Special General Assembly Next Week

A Special General Assembly will be held next Sunday, January 14, beginning at 12:45 pm in the Church hall. The meeting will address the outlook for the operation of the HAA for the 2018/2019 school year.

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.

Philoptochos Notes

There will be no meeting of the Philoptochos in January or February. Membership notices for 2018 will be mailed to current members in January. If you are not a member, Philoptochos invites you to join. It is their hope that the work that has been done in the past and the incredible opportunities that we have going forward will inspire all of us. You can call the office at (978) 458-8092 for additional information.

Winter Camp

Registration is open for the Metropolis of Boston's GOYA Winter Camp President's Day weekend, February 16-19. Why wait for the summer to come back to camp when Winter Camp is available. For more information, call (617) 277-4742 or visit mbcamp@boston.goarch.org.

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.