

Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Rev. Fr. Nikolaos D. Pelekoudas, Presbyter

January 6, 2019

Holy Theophany

SUNDAY READINGS

Epistle Reading	Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7	Page 126
Gospel Reading	Matthew 3:13-17	Page 127
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

- Parish Council members on duty: Joan Metropolis, Daniel Routsis, George Tgibides, Betty Themeles

This Week

Monday, January 7 - Synaxis of John the Baptist – 9:00 am Orthros; 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, January 10 – Parish Council Meeting – 6:30 pm – Hellenic Cultural Center

For Our Edification

Philoptochos News

On Sunday, March 3, 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 President Theodora Stathopoulos following the Divine Liturgy.

The monthly Philoptochos meeting will resume in March. Membership notices for 2019 will be mailed to current members in January. If you are not a member, you are cordially invited to join. It is the hope of Philoptochos that the work that has been done in the past and the incredible opportunities that will be going forward will inspire all of us! You may call the Church office at (978) 458-8092 for more information.

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 5th is a strict fast day, while there is no fasting on January 6th. 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.

GOYA Winter Camp

GOYA Winter Camp is being held Presidents' Day weekend February 15-18. Registration is \$250. Scholarships are available. To register, please go to metropolisofbostoncamp.org/winter.