

**Thursday, January 5, the Eve of the Theophany, is a day of STRICT FASTING. No meat, dairy or oil is permitted in order to focus all our attention on the next day's feast of the Lord's Baptism. The fast is expected of all able-bodied Orthodox believers.**

**50 PLUS**

Our first meeting will be Cutting of the Vasilopita by Father George, on January 11. At our meeting on the 25th, Zoe Kosmidou, Ph.D., Minister Counselor of Cultural Affairs of The Embassy of Greece will be speaking on "PILLARS OF GREEK CULTURE: Connecting the Past with the Future of Hellenism". **Reminder to Everyone:** Keep the date of Wednesday, February 8th, open for our Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon Party at the La Trattoria/Alflosi!

**GREEK SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS REGISTRATION WILL BE ON January 4-18th**

Group A: 2 Year Olds (must be 2 years old by 9/1/12) Monday and Wednesday - 10:00am-12:00pm  
 Group B: 3/4 Year Olds (must be 3 years old by 9/1/12) Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:00am - 12:30 pm  
 Group C: 3/4 Year Olds (must be 3 years old by 9/1/12) Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.



**A BLESSED AND HOLY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

Fr. Dimitrios, Fr. George, Fr. Nick, the Parish Council and Staff members wish the blessings of true spiritual happiness and health of body and soul to the entire St. George community for the New Year.

God bring you closer to Him and may you discover His Indwelling Presence in your hearts. May God grant you many years!

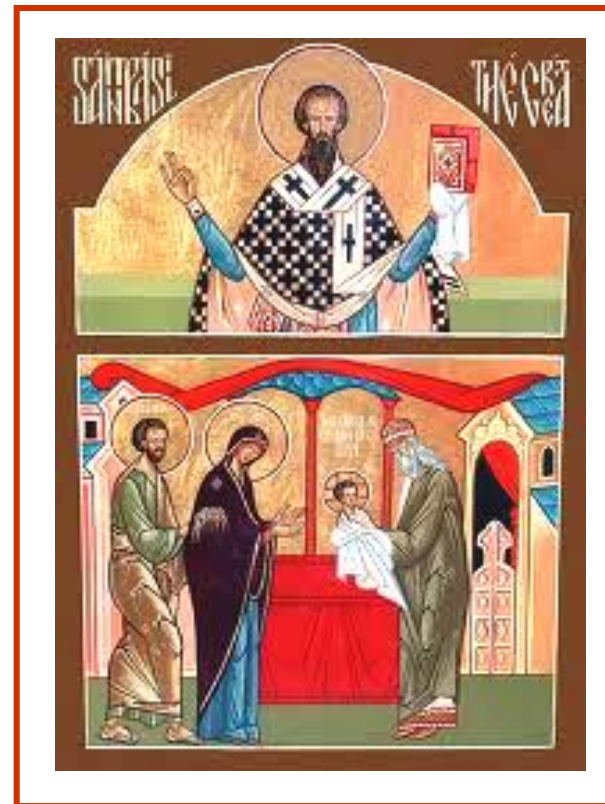
In response to continued inquiries regarding church financials and to illustrate the day-to-day challenges we experience covering our operating expenses, the Church is publishing actual and projected operating income and expenses in the Sunday bulletin. God bless you and thank you for your support.

Actual Expenses 1/1/2011 - 12/29/2011.....	\$1,242,909.51
Projected Expenses 12/30/2011 - 12/31/2011.....	\$ 6,290.66
Actual Income 1/1/2011 - 12/29/2011.....	\$1,229,795.86
Additional Income Needed to Cover Projected Expenses.....	\$ 19,404.31*

\* We currently have a net operating deficit of \$13,113.65 and are projecting that the following main sources of Church income will only cover \$11,452 of the additional income needed to cover our projected expenses through year-end. This will result in a year-end operating deficit of \$21,066 and no income to fund mortgage debt reduction or build up Capital Reserves in accordance with the established \$100,000 parish commitment.

Fall Fundraiser (Gross).....	\$ 7,864.00
Harbor School Rent.....	\$ 0.00
Candles / Trays.....	\$ 474.00
Stewardship.....	\$ 3,114.00

**FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD AND ST. BASIL, ARCHBISHOP OF CAESAREA IN CAPPADOCIA  
 JANUARY 1, 2012**



**APOLYTIKION OF THE CIRCUMCISION**

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

**Apolytikion of St. Basil**  
 Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

**Kontakion of the Circumcision**

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

**THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE**

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Rev. Fr. Nicholas Despotides, Emeritus

### Colossians 2:8-12

BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

#### TODAY'S READER: JEANNE KITSOULIS

### Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking him. After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

**PRAYER LIST: Igumen Seraphim, Rev. Fr. Basil Kissal, Lee Konjas, Constantina Speris, Joseph Papadakis, Nate Cekay, Chris Calender, Robert Shriver, Demitra Aposporos, Dr. Joseph Paul Smith, Vasilios, Omorfia Spathopoulos, Evie Konjas, Alex Kanaris, Conni Kanaris**

### ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS

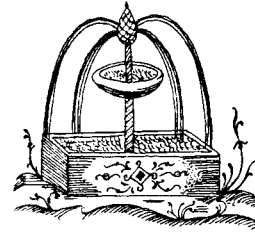


The 2012 Ecclesiastical calendars have arrived. They will be distributed at a table in the Grand Hall *beginning* next Sunday after Divine Liturgy. Rea Assimakopoulos will distribute calendars on January 8, January 15, and January 22 only. ***There is a limit of one (1) per family in order to have enough for the entire community.*** Please stop by and pick up your calendar. They contain Scripture readings for everyday, fasting guidelines, feast days of the Lord and all the Saints, and other information.



### SPECIAL DIVINE SERVICES

- Jan. 5:** EVE OF THEOPHANY Orthros/Royal Hours 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy/Agiasmos 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 6:** FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 7:** SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.



### THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS ON THEOPHANY

The Great Blessing of the Water is appointed twice at the Feast of Theophany. The first takes place on the paramon (the day of preparation for the Feast), and the other takes place on the day of the Feast itself. There is no difference between the two services. Where both Blessings are celebrated, some among the Faithful have adopted the pious custom of drinking the waters of the first blessing for health and spiritual refreshment (since the Fifth is a strict fast day), and then of sprinkling their homes with the water from the second blessing. The water from either service may just as well be used for both purposes. The Scriptures make it clear regarding the importance of water spiritually and physically, its place in hearts and souls and as a medium for God's cleansing, renewing, and healing work. Patriarch Bartholomew reminds us that as stewards of the earth's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, Orthodox Christians anywhere in the world have an obligation to bend our energies to assure the future of the world's water resources for drinking, fishing, and swimming. Yes, we are not free to turn on the water tap, mindless of our stake in all efforts to clean up pollution and to pass on a heritage of clean, potable, life-supporting water to the human generations and all the other life forms after us. The men of Jericho approached the Prophet Elisha for his help with the city's springs, for they realized that their water supply problems were a

difficulty having a spiritual dimension as well (vs. 19). There will be no instant solutions to the rapid degradation of the world's waters so long as human hearts and souls are not healed. Until we approach the basic elements of earth with reverence, we labor in vain to heal the springs of our cities and lands. The Great Blessing calls water "a gift of sanctification, a deliverance from sins unto healing of soul and body and unto every expedient purpose." Let us realize our relationship with water as a fellow 'creature' upon which we depend both physically and spiritually. May God also open the eyes of our hearts to the sacramental role of water. In the great mystery of His infinite love, God cleansed the water of Jericho in a rite of blessing for life in that city and for the whole ecosystem within which it was situated. So let us also drink the Divinely blessed waters of Theophany and sprinkle them upon our homes, rejoicing as the Priests bless our homes. God, the Holy and Life-giving Trinity is among us giving "redemption, the blessing of Jordan," providing for the "remission of sins...protection against disease...destruction of demons" unto the cleansing of our hearts and souls. *Great art Thou, O Lord, and wondrous are Thy works and no words suffice to hymn Thy wonders. Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.*

### 40-DAY BLESSING

A 40 Day Blessing will be given to the child of God **Zoe Eleni**, daughter of Olga and Dean Moissakis. May God grant her many years!