

The 2012 Ecclesiastical calendars have arrived and will be distributed today, Jan. 15, and Jan. 22 following Divine Liturgy. Look for the table with Rea Assimakopoulos who is in charge of distribution. ONE CALENDAR PER FAMILY!

PHILOPTOCHOS

TODAY is **Vasilopita Sunday** and Philoptochos will be passing a tray to collect for St. Basil's? Also on Jan. 14 is the Metropolitan Area Tea with Dr. Datch as the speaker - please RSVP to Joanne Simeon@gmail.com or 301-610-9534. Monthly Meeting: We will be having our monthly meeting this Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 in the Founder's Hall. We hope to meet some new women this week. Questions? Call Joanne at 301-610-9534 or joannesimeon@gmail.com. Philoptochos Biennial Metropolitan Area Tea: This year we are hosting the Metropolitan Area Tea. January 14, from 2:00-4:00. Join us! Dr. Michael Datch will speak on his recent medical mission to Tanzania. Meet women from other area chapters and from the Metropolis. We hope you can come!

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!

IOCC ACTION TEAM VOLUNTEER TRIP

On Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m., there will be an informational meeting on an IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) volunteer trip to Houston, Texas to assist Habitat for Humanity in building homes for the needy in Houston. Volunteers 16 and older are invited to help, and adult volunteers are invited to assist in supervision. **PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING AND FIND OUT MORE!**

GREEK MUSIC CONCERT ON JANUARY 28, 2012

On January 28, 2012, at 6:30pm, join us for a special music night with "Mortes" and "The Mediterranean Colors Band" in smyrneika, rebetika, paradosiaka and old laika songs. The event will take place in St. George's Grand Hall, and the tickets cost \$20, - children under 16 come free. The event will benefit the Greek School. For tickets, please call Olga Vonikaki at 240-731-0146 or stop by the Greek School office during school hours.

A LUNCHEON HONORING THE "STEWARDS OF THE YEAR" WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 22 AFTER DIVINE LITURGY. WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS!

To continue to develop our entire community's common understanding of our Church's financial health, the Church is publishing 2011 financial results (both challenges and bright spots) in the Sunday bulletin. More context around our 2011 financial results and information regarding our 2012 budget will be published in an upcoming edition of The Herald. God bless you and thank you for your support.

- We achieved just over 2% in savings on the expense side, but our income came in just over 4% below budget resulting in an operating deficit for the year of just under \$21,000.
- We collected just over 92% of our \$615,000 stewardship goal for 2011.
- Candle and tray collections were down 8.5% (\$7,000 less than 2010 collections).
- We netted 65% of the \$31,000 budgeted for our Fall Fundraiser.
- We paid down our mortgage debt owed to the Harbor School by \$50,000 using funds generously provided by our Ladies Philoptochos.
- Our Spring Festival grossed just over \$172,000 and netted just over \$102,000 (we had budgeted a net of \$75,000)
- The Literary Luncheon and Golf Tournament raised \$29,000 and \$25,000, respectively that was used to fund much needed improvements in our Church and Founders Hall.

THE SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

ST. GEORGE THE CHOZEBITE

JANUARY 8, 2012



Resurrectional Apolytikion

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

Apolytikion of the Holy Theophany

Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.

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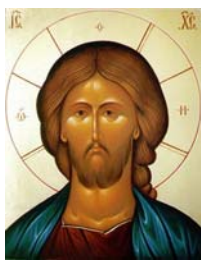
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Emeritus



We hear in today's Holy Gospel, the first theme of Jesus' public preaching after His baptism by John in the Jordan: REPENT. Already the echoes of Great Lent are upon us. The first thing Jesus did was to call people to CHANGE, to turn their lives around, to undergo METANOIA. His coming meant a new order of things. No longer could people live in the same old way, with old attitudes, old ways of doing things. Christ's coming meant a total reversal of human nature such that man would prepare himself, in his daily words and actions, for the coming of the Kingdom of God. **Jesus speaks the same message to us today: change your lives, your ways of thinking and acting; live in conformity with your faith and not with the world's values and attitudes.** Again and again, Jesus calls out to us to live *from the inside out, rather than from the outside in*. We are free to accept His call to repentance or not. To accept it, ultimately means genuine happiness and peace of heart. To ignore that call means to live with disturbance of soul, with anxiety, and with the spiritual darkness of our own brokenness. What choice will you make?

EPISTLE Ephesians 4:7-14

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

TODAY'S READER: STELLA COMINOS

GOSPEL Matthew 4: 12-17

AT THAT TIME, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

THE HERALD TO BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY

As part of St. George's on-going efforts to save money, from now on **THE HERALD** will be sent electronically by email. If you do not have an email address and wish to have a paper copy, or to give us your email address, please contact Judy Natale in the Church Office (301-469-7990). Those who make no request or provide no email address will no longer receive THE HERALD.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Bible Study resumes Thursday, Jan. 12 at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Vending Room.

SERVICE OF HOLY UNCTION

The Service of Holy Unction will precede Bible Study and will be held at 6:30 p.m.



THE FIRST MESSAGE OF JESUS MINISTRY: CHANGE YOURSELF

The spiritual term "metanoia" (μετάνοια) refers to spiritual conversion. But, more pointedly, to a *change of mind*. The word appears often in the Gospels. It is usually translated into English as "repent." We hear Jesus express it in today's passage from St. Matthew. In St. Mark's Gospel, likewise, it is a clear theme: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; **repent**, and believe in the good news." (καὶ λέγων ὅτι πεπλήρωται ὁ καιρὸς καὶ ἤγγικεν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ: **μετανοεῖτε** καὶ πιστεῦτε ἐν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ) (Mark 1) Yet the kind of repentance Jesus refers to is not simply conversion but a **systemic and wholistic change** of the very heart of hearts of a person – a metaphysical transformation in light of the Kingdom's advance. This profound change of the person results in the suppression and eradication of sin (that which obscures the Divine Image) and, furthermore, promotes the nurturing of the virtues (love, kindness, patience, selflessness etc.) Metanoia is no less than a reorientation, a fundamental transformation of outlook, of an individual's vision of the world and of her/himself, and a new way of loving God and others. In the words of a second-century text, The Shepherd of Hermas, it implies "great understanding," discernment. It involves, that is, not mere regret of past evil but a recognition by a person of a darkened vision of her/his own condition, in which sin, by separating her/him from the Divine Image, has reduced her/him to a divided, autonomous existence, depriving her/him of both her/his natural glory and freedom. "Repentance," says St. Basil the Great, "is salvation, but lack of understanding is the death of repentance." Repentance thereby acquires a different dimension to mere dwelling on human sinfulness, and becomes the realization of human insufficiency and limitation. *We are incomplete without God.* Metanoia is the critical element of *theosis* (becoming by grace what God is by nature). It requires us to honestly look deep into our hearts and lives to eradicate sin, to recognize what passions control us, and to make every effort to reorient ourselves to the Living God in Whose image we are made.

MEMORIALS

A Memorial Service will be offered today for **Petrangelos Pastras (40 Days)**, requested by his daughters Athena (George) Georgiou and Roula (Yianni) Danielidis and grandchildren; **Emanuel Anagnostiadis (1 Year)** and **Nicholas Economedes (2 Years)** requested by their loving family; for **Konstantinos Kranias (2 Years)** requested by the Kranias family; for **Fedra Minettou (4 Years)** requested by Milia Alexandrou and family, and for **Eleni Tsesmedzis (15 Years)** and **Athanasios Tsesmedzis (55 Years)** requested by their daughter Kathryn Hughes and grandchildren Kathryn and William Hughes; for **Basil Economides (18 Years)**, requested by his wife Salome Economides and family, and for **Dr. George T. Economos (18 Years)**, requested by his wife Lou Economos and family. May their memory be eternal!



AGIASMOI (HOUSE BLESSINGS)

During the season following the Holy Theophany, Orthodox homes are blessed by the priest with the Holy Water consecrated on the feast. It is fitting that Orthodox homes be blessed at the beginning of each year, to ask the mercy and grace of God upon it and upon those who live there. It also underscores the important connection between the "home church" and the parish Church where the Divine Mysteries are served. To schedule an Agiasmos, please contact the Church office at 301-469-7990.

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, Artemis, Dolores Shriver Smith