

SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Resurrectional Dismissal Hymn

To the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us, the faithful, give praise and worship. For He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death and raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Dismissal Hymn of the Feast

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Dismissal Hymn for Sts. Constantine and Helen

The form of Your Cross was seen in the sky by Your Apostle among the kings, O Lord. He received his calling, like Paul, not from man, and placed his imperial city in your hands. Ever guard it in peace, O Loving God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Kontakion of the Feast

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

From the Holy Fathers –

But God gave all this teaching on humility and obedience to men indirectly, either through created nature or through His prophets, chosen men and angels. Only in the Person of the Lord Jesus did God give this teaching directly, through Himself clothed in flesh. In every moment of His earthly life, from His birth in the cave to his Death on the Cross, the Lord Jesus was living teaching to men on humility and obedience. He gave this living teaching also through His baptism in the Jordan.

-St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Κυριακή μετά τῶν Φώτων

Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠϋδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγείραι τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανέρωθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίη τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἁγίου Κωνσταντίνου

Τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου τὸν τύπον ἐν οὐρανῷ θεασάμενος, καὶ ὡς ὁ Παῦλος τὴν κλησιν οὐκ ἐξ ἀνθρώπων δεξάμενος, ὁ ἐν βασιλεῦσιν, Ἀπόστολός σου Κύριε, Βασιλεύουσιν πόλιν τῇ χειρὶ σου παρέθετο ἦν περισώζε διὰ παντὸς ἐν εἰρήνῃ, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, μόνη Φιλάνθρωπε.

Κοντάκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῇ οἰκουμένῃ, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε. Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 12 - Sunday after Epiphany

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 (Liturgy Book, Page 127)

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 (Liturgy Book, Page 128)

Acolytes Group 1 (Thrones): D. Porcaro, Y. Patestas, A. Zeppos, A. Grassley, A.J. Tilley, M. Patestas, C. Zeppos, A. Zeppos

Council Members Welcoming Today:

Artie Fecera, Shawn Moliatu

Council Members Ushering Today:

Chris Dikos, Gus Kotsakis

Fellowship Hosts: Mr. Nikos Karabas & Elizabeth Selden, Mr. Dennis Karahalias, Ms. Maria Karahalias, Mr. Ted Karahalias, Mr. & Mrs. Tzanetos Karamichalacos

Next Sunday, January 19 – 12th Sunday of Luke

Acolytes Group 2 (Powers): H. Robitzer, D. Scantzios, A. Futrick, A. Scantzios, E. Ross, J. Ross, J. Futrick, N. Meitzler, F. Amegangee

Other Announcements

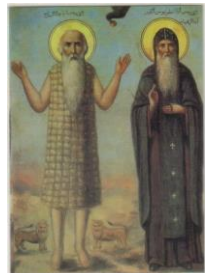
- Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the new GOYA room. We are still in need of donations of the following items:
 - Trash can
 - Gaming systems
 - Tables and chairs
 - Cabinet, sink and faucet
- GOYA Basketball Tournament 1: Campbell, OH 1/17-1/19
- GOYA Basketball Tournament 2: Canton, OH 1/31-2/2
- GOYA Basketball Tournament 3: Pittsburgh, PA 2/14-2/16
- Any parents who are willing and able to serve the youth of our church by being a chaperone for youth events can see Vasso Tilley for more information.
- Support Sts. Constantine & Helen by buying gift cards from us for your grocery shopping at Giant, Redner's, and Weis supermarkets. They will be on sale each week at Fellowship.

- We need a few chaperones to help with basketball tournaments. Any parents who are willing and able to serve the youth of our church by being a chaperone for youth events can see Vasso Tilley for more information.



In the Hospital (Remember in Prayer)

Reading: Charles Karasoulis



St. Paul of Thebes

Born of wealthy parents in Lower Thebes in Egypt in the reign of the Emperor Decius, he and a sister of his together inherited all their parents' property. But his brother-in-law, an idol-worshipper, plotted to seize Paul's half of the inheritance. He therefore threatened Paul that he would betray him to the authorities as a

Christian if he did not hand over his share of the property. This misfortune, coupled with the examples of self-sacrifice by the Christian martyrs that Paul saw with his own eyes, induced him to give his half of the property to his sister and go off into the desert, where he lived in asceticism until his death. The spiritual heights attained by this giant of a monk are testified to by no less a person than St. Antony the Great, who once visited Paul and saw how the wild animals and birds of the air ministered to him. Returning from this visit, Antony said to his monks, 'Woe is me, my children, a sinful and false monk, who am a monk in name only. I have seen Elias, I have seen John in the desert, and I have seen Paul – in Paradise!' St. Paul lived 113 years, and entered peacefully into rest in the Lord in the year 342.

Fr. Theodore has begun the Blessing of Homes this year with the feast of Epiphany. He is visiting the homes of the parish members between the hours of 10 AM and 6 PM. When there are services in the morning (St. Anthony 1/17, St. Athanasios 1/18, St. Euthymios 1/20) he will not begin blessing homes until the afternoon. In the January Echo is the schedule planned in the order that the homes will be visited each day. If your name is toward the beginning of the list, Fr. Theodore will arrive sometime between 10 AM and 1 PM (unless there are services in church that morning). If your name is in the middle, he will visit between 1 PM and 4 PM. If your name is at the end, expect him between 4 PM and 6 PM. If you do not plan to be home on the day assigned, please call Laura in the church office at 610-374-7511. The homes of parishioners who live at a distance outside Berks County will be blessed upon request. Make-up dates will be determined at a later date. If your name is not included on the list, but should be, please notify Laura. If you would like your business blessed as well, please contact the office or Fr. Theodore directly.

The Cutting of the Vasilopita Bread

One of the most beautiful and inspirational traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church is the annual family celebration of the Vasilopita. This service originated from a miracle in Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century.

The Greek word Vasilopita is directly translated as "Bread of Basil". When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is baked into the ingredients. Sweet flavoring is added to the bread symbolizing the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also signifies the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of the spiritual life, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita observance.

When the service is offered, usually on New Year's Day, the bread is traditionally cut by the senior member of the family, and the individual who receives the portion of the bread which contains the coin is considered blessed for the New Year.

This age old tradition commenced in the fourth century, when Saint Basil the Great, wanting to distribute back to his flock valuables that they had entrusted to him to pay for exorbitant taxes from the King, commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he arranged to place their valuables. Then the miracle happened. Without it being arranged each family received their own valuables back!

The Vasilopita is a beautiful custom and such a wonderful way to begin each New Year.

Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

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The Weekly Church Bulletin

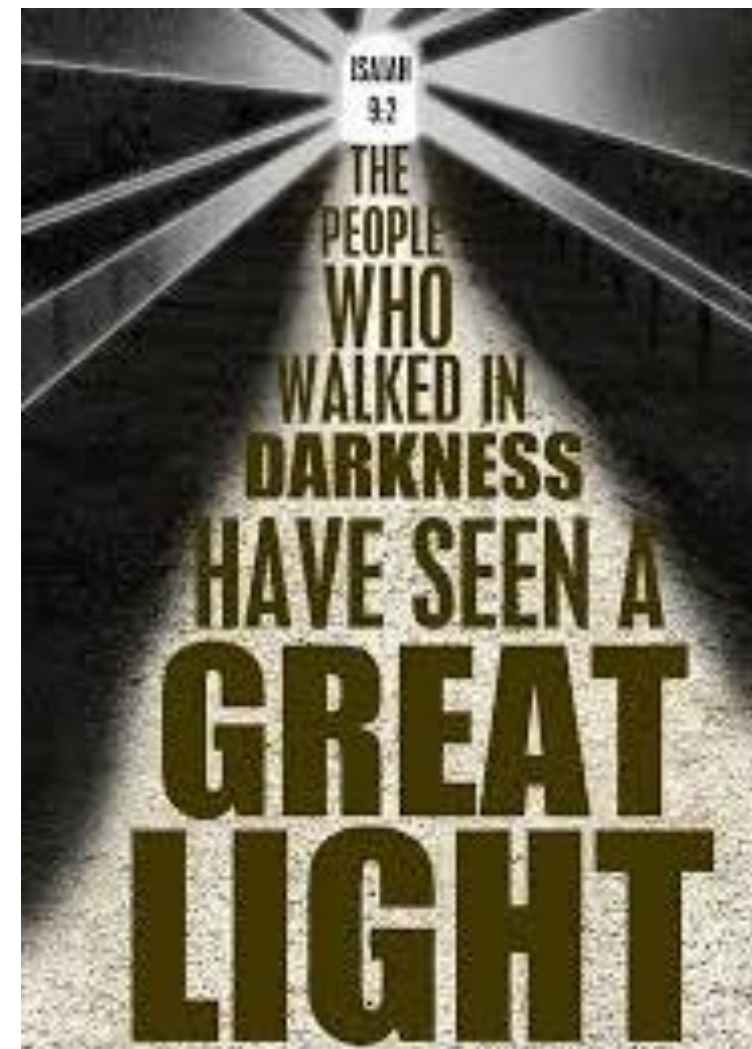
Rev. Fr. Theodore Petrides

Dn. James Elliker

Church Phone: 610-374-7511

FAX: 610-374-5890

Sunday, January 12 Sunday after Epiphany



Today, Sunday, January 12th, our Ladies Philoptochos will hold the Vasilopita cutting and luncheon. On the same day, we will hold our first General Assembly of the new year.



Donations of 100% virgin olive oil for our vigil lamps would be very much appreciated! Thank you in advance for your generosity!!