

Worship Services



Orthros 9:15 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Priest: Fr. Tom Pistolis

Choir Director: Fanya Paouris
Organist: Mary Koutroulias
Chanters: Sotiris Basilakos, Tony Thermos, Forrest Palmer, David Bowden, John Blackstone, Tim Demas

WEEKDAY SERVICES -

Eve of Epiphany: Thursday, January 5 – Liturgy 9:30am
Holy Epiphany: Friday, January 6 – Liturgy 9:30am
John the Baptist: Saturday, January 7 - Liturgy 9:30am

Sunday, January 1

Altar Boys: Team Saint Constantine: Andrew Zolides, leader, Demetrie Pisteolis, Anthony DeLucia, Blake Spears, Walt Tollison
Narthex: George Marianos, Shane Taylor, Nick Demos, Stan Tzouvelekas

Sunday, January 8

Altar Boys: Team Saint Andrew: Alex Bobotis, leader, Chris Georgiades, Shelby Bowden, Dirk Pieper
Narthex: John Sfiris, Tom Mantekas, Bill Stathakis, Charles Joiner, Jimmy Georgiades
Greeter: Keefe Hamberis

MEMORIALS – JANUARY 8

Offered in loving memory of Gus Georgiades. This is the 3 year anniversary of his falling asleep in the Lord. We join the family in asking God to be merciful to the soul of His servant, Gus. May his memory be eternal.

Forty day memorial for Pete Kythas. We pray that God bestow continued strength on the family left behind and that He grant peace to His servant, Pete. May his memory be eternal.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 7pm in the small hall Hellenic Center.

PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting 6:00pm Monday, January 9.

AHEPA

Meeting 7:00pm Tuesday, January 10.

DAUGHTERS OF EVRYTANIA

Next meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7pm in the small hall of the Hellenic Center.

PARACLETOS MONASTERY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR BENEFIT OF THE MONASTERY.

January 22 after Liturgy.

We are blessed to have a Cathedral, the Diakonia Center and a Monastery so close by. These are all places to enhance and keep our Faith and heritage. The Velouchi Society is donating the food and will serve the meal. In addition to their generous support, our AHEPA organization is also sponsoring this event. Our GOYans will assist and the Troupe Adelpia Choir will bless us with a Byzantine Hymn. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Charlie Joiner, 254-0150 (cjoiner@mac.com), or Bill Stathakis, 221-0170 (bill29621@lycos.com).



All the proceeds of the luncheon will be committed to building the first chapel at the Monastery, which is to be dedicated to the Panagia Soumela. Currently the Sisters of the Monastery do not have a place of worship. For more information on the Monastery go to the Monastery web site www.greekorthodoxmonastery.org and come to the luncheon to learn more about our rich monastic tradition in the Orthodox Church.

HOLY EPIPHANY

Dodekaameron

The twelve days between the Nativity and Epiphany on January 6th are the twelve festal days. There is no fasting during this period as it is considered a continual festive period.

On the day after Christmas we celebrate the synaxis (a gathering for worship) of the Theotokos, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. All gather in her honor and venerate her surrounded by all the saints. On the Sunday that follows Christmas we commemorate three members of Christ's earthly family, the prophet David, the Apostle James, the brother of the Lord, and Joseph, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. David as king mysteriously announces the royalty of Christ. As author of the Psalms, he gave the Church a type of prayer of adoration that Jesus Himself used. James was head of the first Christian community in Jerusalem. Joseph was a just man obedient to the angelic messages and careful to protect Jesus and Mary. He is the most eminent representative of the holiness of the layman, the head of a family, the man who plies a trade.

On December 27th we celebrate St. Stephen the Apostle who became the first Christian martyr. It says in Acts, "they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he has said this, he fell asleep." In his death lay a great victory for those who stoned Stephen, "Laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul...and Saul was consenting unto his death." But Saul was destined to become Paul soon to meet Jesus on the way to Damascus.

January 1st is the Circumcision of the Lord. The Lord in submitting to circumcision humiliates himself in his flesh and shows he is the fullness and completion of the Old Covenant. His circumcision prefigured the bloody consecration of his body on the cross.

On the Sunday before Epiphany we move from the Nativity to the event where He was revealed to the world.

Epiphany

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came to the river Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him and the voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feat is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Hagiasmos - Blessing of the Water

There is the Small and the Great Hagiasmos, both signifying the liturgical act by which water is sanctified as a result of certain prayers and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, as well as by immersing in it a small ceremonial cross. It is believed that by being sprinkled with and by drinking this sanctified water the faithful is cleansed and sanctified.

On the eve of Epiphany, the priest reads a special prayer asking the Lord to sprinkle us with pure water and to bless the water in the basin in front of him. With his hand he traces the sign of the cross and then plunges the cross itself into the water, holding it upright and then lifts it out, symbolizing Jesus receiving Baptism in the Jordan. Then the priest sprinkles the congregation with water. On Epiphany the water is again blessed and distributed to the people to take into their homes. In the period following, the priest will visit the homes of those who wish to bless their homes with this Holy Water.

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.

From Epiphany Divine Liturgy

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January						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fast Free FAMILY SUNDAY 9:15a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy	2 Fast Free	3 Fast Free 4:00p Greek School 7:00p Philoptochos	4 Fast Free 10:00 Bible study	5 + 9:30a Liturgy & Blessing of the Water 4:00p Greek School	6 Fast Free 9:30a Liturgy & Blessing of the Water	7 9:30a Liturgy - St. John the Baptist
8 9:15a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy 3yr memorial - Gus Georgiades 40 day memorial - Pete Kythas	9 6:00p Parish Council	10 4:00p Greek School 7:00p AHEPA	11 ☩ 10:00 Bible study 7:00p Daughters of Evrytania	12 4:00p Greek School 6:30 Othodoxy Class	13 +	14
15 9:15a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy 1yr memorial - Jimmy Chatos	16	17 4:00p Greek School 7:00p AHEPA	18 ☩ 9:30a Liturgy - Sts. Athanasios & Anthony 10:00 Bible study 12n Agaape Luncheon	19 6:30 Othodoxy Class 7:00p Daughters of Penelope	20 ☩	21
22 9:15a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy	23	24 4:00p Greek School	25 ☩ 10:00 Bible study	26 4:00p Greek School 6:30 Othodoxy Class	27 ☩	28
29 9:15a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy	30 9:30a Liturgy - Three Hierarchs	31 4:00p Greek School	1 + 10:00 Bible study	2 4:00p Greek School 6:30 Othodoxy Class	3 + HDF Competition in Greenville	4 HDF Competition in Greenville

www.stgeorgegreenville.org



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