



## Worship Services



Orthros 9:00 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

Friday, Jan. 5 - 9:30 a.m. Blessing of Water

Saturday, Jan. 6 - 9:30 a.m. Epiphany

Thursday, Jan. 18- 9:30 a.m. Athanasius

Tuesday, Jan. 30 - 9:30 am. Three Hierarchs

### Sunday, January 7

**Altar Boys:** Team Saint Andrew  
Mike Madeckas, leader, Tony  
Cheros, co-leader, Dirk Pieper,  
Vasilee Dimopoulos

**Nursery:** George and Renee  
Kakaras

**Narthex:** John Kiriakides, Harry  
Zolides, Gus Stathos, Stathe  
Koutroulias, Dan Johnson

**Coffee Servers:** Janice Boyd-  
Bowman & Stephanie Sullivan

### Sunday, January 14

**Altar Boys:** Team Saint George  
Paul Chitwood, leader, Nelson  
Chulkas, co-leader, Gus Papajohn,  
Bridge Boukedes, Petros  
Koutsougiannis

**Nursery:** Kris and Kathy Kapoor

**Narthex:** Nick Demos, Nick G.  
Skenteris, George Marianos,  
Shane Taylor

**Greeter:** Debbie or Mike  
Kiriakides

**Coffee Servers:** Peggy Kourlas  
and Vassi Passinos.

**Memorials:** Peter Kourlas - 1 year  
Thomas Katsaros - 3 year

## MAKE PLANS FOR HOLY WEEK NOW!

Holy Week is the first week of April. Pascha is April 8. Make your plans now so you can attend the important services during Holy Week!

## NEWS CONGRATULATIONS

...to the GOYA Junior basketball team for their first place trophy at the Winter Youth Rally.

## BIBLE STUDY

Will resume on Wednesday, January 10, 10:00am. All are invited.

## CARING FOR HELLENIC CENTER - PLEASE HELP

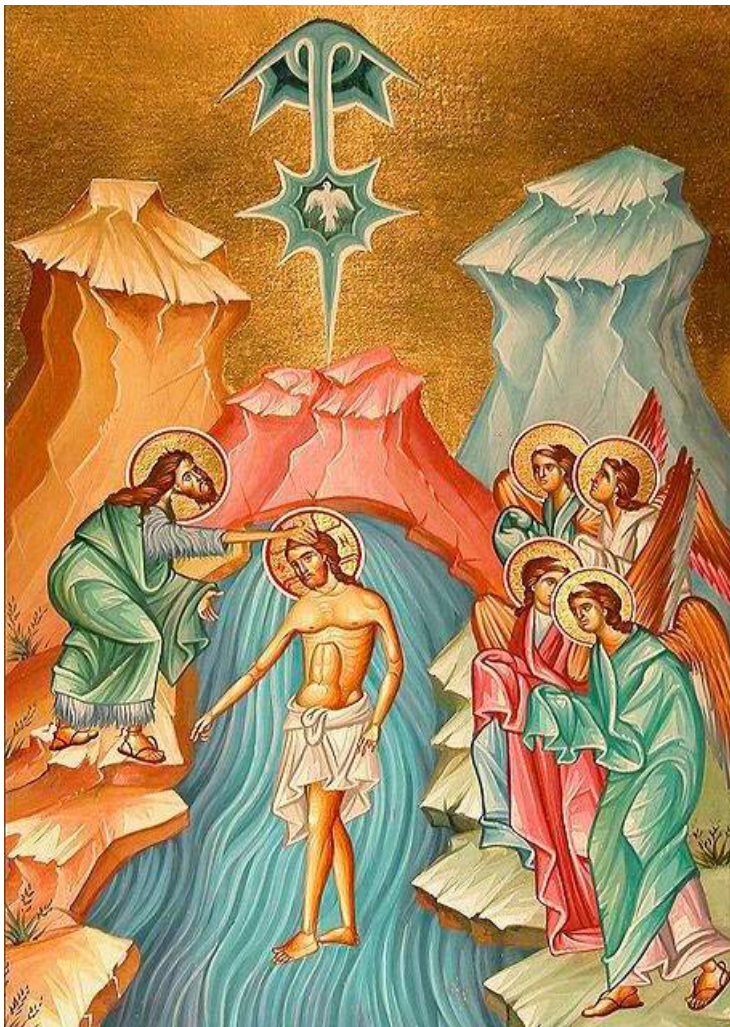
During recent community party there was smoking and cigarettes were even put out on the wooden floor damaging it. The Hellenic Center is a non-smoking facility. Help us care for our Church Property and respect our fellow church members and guests.

## WHY IS EPIPHANY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FEASTS?

This is the day when Christ made himself known. John the Baptist said, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know... I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." (Jn 1:30, 33-34)

Why did Christ come to be baptized? He did not need it for the forgiveness of sins nor for His flesh to receive the Holy Spirit so why did he submit to baptism?

There was no NEED for Him to be baptized. In fact, what does it say after He was baptized? "Straightway He came up out of the water." To the fathers this is crystal clear, and therefore to us it will be now, too. He came straightway out of the water because He has no sin. In those days St. John was baptizing for repentance. A baptism of repentance, but not for remission of sins, because he cannot remit sins. But people would, when they came out of the water, they came up partway, (obviously their head was out of the water), and they con-



fessed their sins right then and there. And then they were released out of the water. That's how it was done. But our Lord had no need to do so, He had no sins to confess. In fact, when He went into the water, the demons fled.

The Baptism of Our Lord was when all could know Him as the "Son of God," as the Incarnate God, the Creator Himself. Not only this, but we had at this moment the revelation of the Holy Trinity: Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Father who spoke to those witnessing.

Paul also mentions: "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe in Him who would come after him, that is, in Christ Jesus." (Acts 19:4)

John Chrysostom says, "If John had gone to the home of each and, standing at the door, had spoken out for Christ and said: "He is the Son of God," such a testimony would have been suspicious, and this deed would have been extremely perplexing. So too, if he in advocating Christ had gone into

the synagogues and witnessed to Him, this testimony of his might be suspiciously fabricated. But when all the people thronged out from all the cities to Jordan and remained on the banks of the river, and when He Himself came to be baptized and received the testimony of the Father by a voice from above and by the coming-upon of the Spirit in the form of a dove, then the testimony of John about Him was made beyond all questioning... John, as he was instructed of God, thus also announced about Him, wherein also he did say: "and I knew Him not." From whence didst thou find out? "He having sent me that sayeth to baptise with water, That One did tell me" What did He tell thee? "Over Him thou shalt see the Spirit descending, like to a dove, and abiding over Him, That One is baptized by the Holy Spirit" (Jn 1:32-33). Dost thou see, that the Holy Spirit did not descend as in a first time then coming down upon Him, but in order to point out that preached by His inspiration -- as though by a finger, it pointed Him out to all. For this reason He came to baptize.

*When You, O Lord were baptized in the Jordan*

*The worship of the Trinity was made manifest*

*For the voice of the Father bore witness to You*

*And called You His beloved Son.*

*And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,*

*Confirmed the truthfulness of His word.*

*O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself*

*And have enlightened the world, glory to You!*

# January/February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> 🍷 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine	<b>1</b> FAST FREE	<b>2</b> FAST FREE	<b>3</b> FAST FREE	<b>4</b> FAST FREE 4:10p Greek School	<b>5</b> + 9:30am Blessing of the Water House Blessings	<b>6</b> 🍷 <b>Epiphany</b> 9:30am Liturgy Blessing of the Water House Blessings
<b>7</b> 🍷 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy	<b>8</b> House Blessings 6:00p Parish Council	<b>9</b> House Blessings 4:10p Greek School 7:00pm Philoptochos	<b>10</b> + House Blessings 10:00a Bible Study 4:10p Greek School	<b>11</b> House Blessings 4:10p Greek School	<b>12</b> + House Blessings	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy 8:00pm 1 year memorial Peter Kourlas 3 yr memorial Thomas Katsaros	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> House Blessings 4:10p Greek School	<b>17</b> + House Blessings 10:00a Bible Study 12:00 Agape Luncheon 4:10p Greek School 7:00p Daughters of Evrytania	<b>18</b> House Blessings 9:30 am Liturgy Athanasius 4:10p Greek School 7:00pm Daughters of Penelope	<b>19</b> +	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy 8:00pm 1 yr memorial for Jimmy Chatos	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4:10p Greek School	<b>24</b> + 10:00a Bible Study 4:10p Greek School	<b>25</b> 4:10p Greek School	<b>26</b> +	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Triodion Begins 9:00a Orthros 10:00a Divine Liturgy 8:00pm Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee:	<b>29</b> FAST FREE	<b>30</b> FAST FREE 9:30am Divine Liturgy - Three Hierarchs 4:10p Greek School	<b>31</b> FAST FREE 10:00a Bible Study 4:10p Greek School	<b>1</b> FAST FREE 4:10p Greek School	<b>2</b> FAST FREE 9:30am Divine Liturgy - Presentation of our Lord	<b>3</b> FAST FREE HDF - Clearwater, FL

Fasting guidelines from the Archdiocese calendar: 🐟 fish allowed 🍷 Wine and oil allowed + Strict Fast 🥛 Dairy, eggs and fish allowed



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