

**Sunday, January 14, 2018**

**Apodosis of Epiphany  
Holy Fathers Slain at Sinai & Raitho  
Vasilopita Sunday**

**HYMNS FOR THE DAY:** 91, 7, 91, 134, 226 (Found in red hymnal book)

**READINGS:** **Orthros Gospel:** John 21:1-4  
**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:7-13  
**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

**THE NICENE CREED & LORD’S PRAYER** are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

**PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS:** The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

**COUNCIL DUTY:** **Orthros: 8:00 a.m.** Maria Georgiadis  
**Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.** All Parish Council Members

**MEMORIALS**

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 40 days Makaria Zoumis Kanne   | 14 yrs. Helen Logothetis     |
| 9 mons. Ioannis (John) Kavadas | 16 yrs. Maria Halkias        |
| 9 mons. Anastasios Yiatras     | 20 yrs. Manolis Papadakis    |
| 1 yr. Stephan Hanzivasilis     | 20 yrs. Georgeos Kostakis    |
| 3 yrs. Elefterios Papadakis    | 21 yrs. Meltiades Halkias    |
| 4 yrs. Janice Hanzivasilis     | 24 yrs. Olga Soldatos        |
| 6 yrs. Spiro Logothetis        | 41 yrs. Anthanasios Soldatos |
| 9 yrs. Gregory Galanopoulos    | 44 yrs. Haralambos Galouzis  |
| 11 yrs. Kaliopi Papadakis      |                              |

**“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!”**

**SERVICE SCHEDULE:** Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – *Feast Day of St. Athanasios* (Commemorating also *St. Anthony of Egypt*) Divine Liturgy: 9:00am.

**ΘΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ:** Πέμπτη, 18 Ιανουαρίου – *Αθανασίου και Κυρίλου Πατριαρχών Αλεξανδρίας (και Αντωνίου του Μεγάλου)* – Θεία Λειτουργία: 9:00 π.μ.

**IN ORDER TO LIVE AND LEARN OUR FAITH:** We must begin to practice what we preach. So many people claim to be good Christians and members of certain community; but rarely, if ever, participate in a religious, social or Church oriented activity. If you are one of “those people” or know one or are thinking about one, let us see if we can change some of our habits and redirect our thinking towards one purpose: living our lives for our Lord, Jesus Christ. If we keep Him in our minds, our hearts, our souls constantly and help others do the same, we will begin practicing what we all like to preach: the message of Christianity.

**COOPERATION IS NEEDED!** We remind our faithful that the Orthros Service begins at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Cathedral and is followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy. **Please be prompt and on time!** Please turn off cell phones before entering church. No conversation should take place during worship. During the reading of the Gospel people in the narthex should not be purchasing or lighting candles but stand reverently and listen to the reading. If possible avoid using the center aisle during high points of Divine Liturgy. Lipstick and lip-gloss should be removed before kissing icons, receiving Holy Communion and kissing the hand of the priest. Only Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church may receive Holy Communion. Parents with children who cannot sit quietly during services should use the cry room. Please avoid using cell phones, I-Pads or other electronic devices to entertain or amuse children during worship. This delivers the wrong message of why we are in church and allows the child to pick up bad habits. When receiving antidoron, please use both hands and do not allow the crumbs to fall.

**STEWARDSHIP NOTE:** We ask all our parishioners who have an outstanding balance on their Year 2017 Stewardship pledges to please meet their commitment. How can we expect our Cathedral to function if we cannot pay our expenses? Please meet the commitment you yourself have pledged to our Cathedral. Also, if you haven’t already done so, please submit your 2018 pledge of Time, Talent, and Financial Resources to the church office.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**Triodion Begins – January 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Godparent Sunday – February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Greek School Apokreatiko Glendi – February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday of Souls – February 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Great Lent Begins – Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Palm Sunday – April 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Pascha/Easter Sunday – April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**VASILOPITA CELEBRATION:** This year the cutting of the Vasilopita for our parish will take place today at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

We invite all those who represent leadership of our societies and organization, as well as the various ministries and programs of our Cathedral, along with the members of our parish families to be available to receive the special slice of Vasilopita and make a donation for the benefit of St. Basil’s Academy.

After the Cutting of the Vasilopita, we hope you plan to attend the luncheon offered by our Philoptochos Ladies in helping this worthy cause. The Luncheon Menu consists of Lemon Rice Soup, Salad, Half-a-Chicken, Rice, Dessert, Pop and Coffee. The Luncheon donation is \$10.00 per person. Let us come out and support the Philoptochos Society efforts, enjoy a beautiful meal and each other’s company while offering our assistance to the children of St. Basil’s Academy.

**CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK:** When during prayer your heart is overwhelmed with despondency and melancholy, be sure that these proceed from the Devil, endeavoring by every means to hinder you in your prayer. Be firm, take courage, and by the remembrance of God drive away this deadly feeling.

–St. John of Kronstadt

**HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS:** Practice will be Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> with the Junior group from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the Senior group from 7:30-8:30 p.m. For details or to check on schedule changes, contact Taki Zarakas or check the Hellenic Dancers Facebook page.

**GREEK SCHOOL NEWS:** Classes will be on Friday, January 19, 2018.

**YOUTH MEETINGS:** Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, HOPE and JOY 6:30pm-7:30pm, Jr. GOYA & GOYA 6:30-8pm. Before the meetings start we will have the celebration of the cutting of the Vasilopita.

**SENIOR CITIZENS NEWS:** Lunch and monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m. in the Gold Room. All seniors of our community, 55 and older are invited to attend. For details, contact Kalliope Dedelow at 219-588-1026.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gold Room. All Council members need to be in attendance.

**PHILOTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP:** All the ladies of our Cathedral are encouraged to join our St. Helen's Philoptochos Society. Last year we had about 100 members and our goal for 2018 is to reach at least 150. You can help us reach our goal by submitting your membership offering of \$25 either at our monthly meeting or through the church office. Together we can work miracles in philanthropy and assisting those in need.

**OLIVE OIL FOR SALE:** We are near our goal of selling 50 cases of olive oil to honor the last request of Metropolitan Iakovos to help fight Turkish aggression in the Aegean Sea, especially for the Dodecanese. There are only 4 cases (48 bottles) of olive oil left to sell. Please won't you help us sell the remaining amount by the end of January? Bottles are available for \$12.00 each at the candle stands in the Narthex of the Cathedral, the church office, or the bookstore. Your support in this effort is welcomed and appreciated!

**HELPING HAND UPDATE:** For those who would like to help those less fortunate from our parish and the needy of our area, and don't know how to go about it, the solution is easy. Give a monetary donation to our Helping Hand Fund. Through your generosity we hope to assist those less fortunate with their various needs during the holiday season. For details on how you can help, see Fr. Ted.

**PRAISE:** To praise God! Do we know what it means to praise? To adore? To give glory?

Praise is cheap today. Everything is praised. Soap, beer, toothpaste, clothing, mouthwash, movie stars, all the latest gadgets which are supposed to make life more comfortable. Everything is constantly being praised. Praise is now so overdone that everybody is sick of it and since everything is praised with the official hollow enthusiasm of the radio announcer, it turns out in the end that nothing is praised. Praise has become empty. Nobody really wants to use it.

Are there any superlatives left for God? Have they all been wasted on foods and sweet smelling perfumes? Are there no words left to express our adoration of Him who alone is Holy, who alone is Lord?

**THE HOLY FATHERS MARTYRED IN SINAI AND RAITHU:** A group of holy monks who lived on the summit of Mount Sinai called Raithu were killed by Bedouin tribesmen in the year 400, in the days of Emperor Arcadius. This led Emperor Justinian to build a large fortified monastery at Mount Sinai in 527, that of St. Catherine which is still in existence.

**BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST:** What is the Body of Christ? The Church. The Lord has made us worthy to make up His Body. In order for the Body to work properly, the Lord has given us provision. He has given "gifts" to each member of His Body, and these gifts are meant to be used for the glory of God and for the building up of the Church. In other words, we ought not to hoard these gifts to ourselves – first, because they are not ours to keep and, second, because they must be used to serve others.

What gifts has the Lord given to us? Saint Paul answers this question, saying, "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). Each *charisma* has a unique purpose – the Apostles preached and led the pagans and Jews to Christ, the prophets interpreted God's will, the teachers instructed others in the Faith. We see in the Body of Christ, many members with different functions. Yet these members do not oppose one another, otherwise, there would be chaos and sickness. The members all work toward one goal. That goal is this: "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13). "Mature manhood" is Christian perfection. We Christians have the highest calling, to become perfect, to acquire every virtue and to overcome every sin. In order to do this, the Lord has not left us alone, but has given us helpers and teachers so that we may learn to travel the straight path toward heaven, toward Christian perfection.

**TRADITION OF THE VASILOPITA:** Vasilopita is a round sweet bread with a coin inside that is cut on New Year's Eve at midnight, on New Year's Day (The Feast day of St. Basil) as well as at ecclesiastical and cultural celebrations during the month of January.

It gets its name from St. Basil. As we know, St. Basil lived in the fourth century and is known to us as a most revered bishop and hierarch. He assisted the poor and destitute and established institutions for the poor, sick, and orphaned. New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, is the Great Feast day of St. Basil and the Circumcision of our Lord.

Tradition has it that St. Basil was entrusted with precious pieces of stones, silver and gold that belonged to the people of his region named Caesarea. We are told that civil officials demanded a tax upon the people assigning St. Basil to collect. After some disagreements, the tax was voided and monies were to be returned. Confusion began to happen as to who were the rightful owners of the precious goods. Thereby, St. Basil ordered that breads (pita) be made with the valuables baked inside. By providence, everyone received their rightful share.

For this day, in honor of St. Basil, the Vasilopita is baked with a coin inside to bring forth blessings, joy and good health. The recipient of the coin is considered to now have good fortune during the New Year.