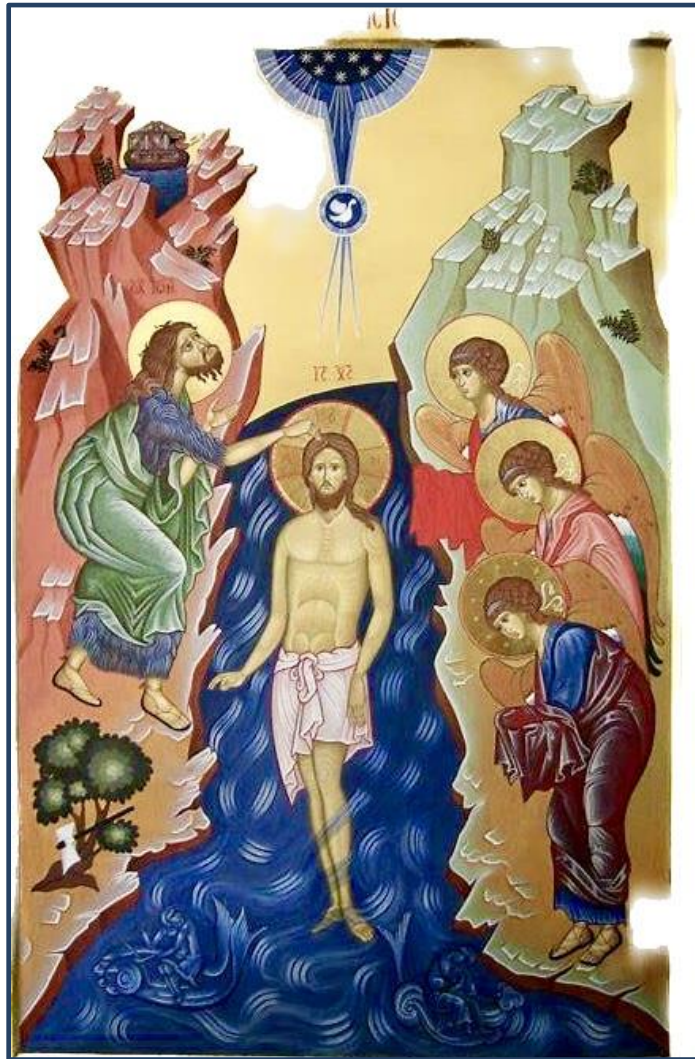


Message from Fr. George for January 6, 2023



As the 12 Days of Christmas come to an end on January 5th, we find ourselves on the Eve of the **Feast of the Lord we call *Holy Theophany*** – the appearance of the Holy Trinity at the baptism of Jesus Christ by St. John the Baptist with the presence of the dove and the voice that was heard from the sky (Matthew 3:13 – 17). *Please join us for the Theophany services this Thursday and Friday per the schedule that follows these remarks.*

Before we leave the celebration of Christmas, I hope you will take a moment to read a short reflection from one of my professors at Holy Cross School of Theology, Fr. Andrew Demotses, who recently fell asleep in the Lord. It is titled, **“Let Us Celebrate Christmas!”** As we begin the year 2023, I feel it offers valuable insights that can help us transform the way we encounter our Savior and interact with each other amidst our daily journeys.



It has always seemed to me that we can never truly celebrate Christmas on the day itself but do so in the weeks and months that follow. After the tree is down, the wrappings are memories, and the feasting is over, we then begin to give meaning to that greatest of days.

Even the Gospel makes this important point. We are told that after hearing the host of angels, and seeing the Christ child for themselves, "the shepherds went back" (Luke 2:20) to the everyday tasks of life. But the experience of Christ changed their lives forever, and they went back "singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them." What made Christmas important for the shepherds, therefore, was not that they had experienced it, but rather that it had changed them and transformed their lives in the weeks and months that followed.

*In this way, brothers and sisters, we are reminded that Christmas is nothing if it is only a one-day occasion for the exchange of gifts and hearty eating. **For Christmas to be truly celebrated, it must also transform the days and weeks of our lives that follow. If they too are filled with all that we have come to regard as the spirit of Christmas, then we will truly celebrate the birth of Christ.***

Let then our homes be filled with the warmth, and the light, and the laughter and the love of Christmas, and may all of these gifts not be quickly forgotten the next day, but may they fill our lives in the weeks and months that are yet to come.

Peace on Earth!





Services Leading Up to and after The Holy Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Join us with your family & friends.

Thursday, January 5 (Eve of the Holy Theophany of our Lord – Strict Fast Day):

8:00 a.m. Great Hours of Holy Theophany

9:30 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great with the Great Blessing of the Water

Friday, January 6 (Holy Theophany of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ):

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with the Great Blessing of the Water

Saturday, January 7 (Synaxis of John, the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner):

4:45 p.m. Blessing of the Water at our Ebenezer Road Property

5:30 p.m. Annual Vasilopita Dinner & Auction at All Saints Anglican Church

Sunday, January 8 (Sunday After the Holy Theophany of our Lord):

7:45 a.m. Orthros

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, followed by Parish Council Oath of Office

11:00 a.m. Religious Education Classes (for all ages)

12:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting



As we have arrived at the threshold of the 20th year of our parish history, we thank you for your faithful prayers and steadfast support. Our parish will be planning a GALA later this year to celebrate our progress. Likewise, we will be seeking your support to finalize our building plans.

In thanksgiving and respect for God's rich blessings on our parish family, we will be "going to the desert", so to speak on the Feast of St. John the Baptist (January 7th at 4:45 p.m.) by traveling to our church property on Ebenezer Road to bless and sanctify its land and water during the Holy Theophany Season. *We cordially invite you and your family to join us for this brief and historic service to sanctify God's creation entrusted to us. Antidoron prepared for the Feast of St. John the Baptist will be distributed in thanksgiving to all present and signify the bounty we have received.*

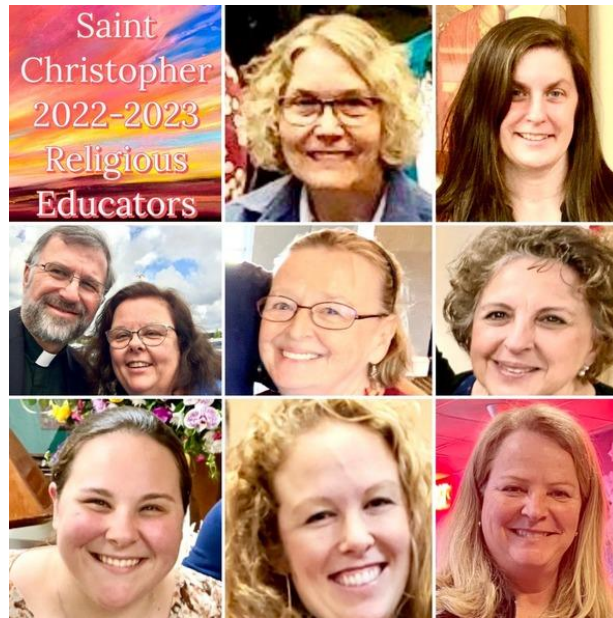
At 5:15 p.m., we will depart promptly and drive a few blocks to All Saints Anglican Church for our Annual Vasilopita Dinner & Auction scheduled for 5:30 p.m. *In case of rain or severe cold weather, Fr. George will offer the Blessing at All Saints Church. Mark your calendars and join us!*



Reminder to Prepare Vasilopitas for This Saturday's Event

A favorite activity of our parishioners every year is preparing a "Vasilopita" (Bread of St. Basil) with a coin inside. Presbytera Marinda encourages everyone planning to prepare Vasilopitas for this Saturday's event to bring their offerings to All Saints Anglican Church at 5:30 p.m. so they can be arranged for display. This year we kindly ask our bakers to add a label to your baked goods with your name and whether you wish for your item(s) to be auctioned or listed at a fixed price. We hope to have both types and if you prefer your item is not auctioned, please specify a suggested donation amount so it can be offered for sale. Thank you.

Religious Education Classes Resume This Sunday



Religious Education Class Assignments

Teachers	Grades	Room Location
Susan Kleto Jackie Sarantis	3yrs-Kinder	Back Class (Between bathrooms)
Presbyteras Marinda Tsahakis Lydia McGee	1st-4th	Upstairs Room
Becky Butler Angelique Soulakos	5th-8th	Conference Room
Katie Wilson Dedee Panayis	9th-12th	Bookstore
Fr. George Tsahakis	Adults	Nave of the Church

Note for Adult Class participants – bring your textbook so we can discuss the Appendices during this last session using this book.