



Sunday Bulletin January 7, 2018
Greek Orthodox Church of the
Annunciation

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## **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 63.11,1.**  
**The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.**  
**Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.**

**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8**

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

## **Gospel Reading**

**John 1:29-34**

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

*Message from Fr. Michael....*

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

Once again, now that Christmas and New Year's Day (feast day of St. Basil and the Circumcision of the Lord) celebrations have come and gone, we might begin to experience symptoms of holiday withdrawal. However, we are uplifted today by the celebration of the feast of the Holy Theophany (Epiphany) of our Lord, which we celebrated yesterday.

The weather outside has been recently truly 'frightful' as we heard in the popular Christmas song. Yet our seemingly melancholy demeanor may be uplifted by viewing and getting excited after reviewing the Orthodox Calendar for the blockbuster month of January. On the feast of the Lord's Holy Theophany, yesterday, we walked away with the knowledge that the Lord came in the form of man and submitted to be baptized by the servant (John) who ate wild locusts and honey, all the waters on earth became sanctified. As we partake of the blessing of the waters we are made holy. Thus, we become part of the life-sustaining water by being one with the Lord. We become illuminated again as we partake of the Holy Theophany of our Lord. In essence, it is as if we are being re-baptized today. "For as many that are baptized in Christ, put on Christ." Have we put on Christ today? The answer is simple: Of course!

January is a month of feast days of spiritual giants: Jan. 1st: St. Basil the Great, Jan. 7th: St. John the Baptist, Jan. 9th: St. Efstratios the ascetic (not the December 13th saint), Jan. 17th: St. Anthony the Great, Jan. 18th: St. Athanasios, Jan. 30th: The Three Hierarchs: Sts. Basil the Great, John Chrysostom, and Gregory the Theologian. If we read about the spiritual accomplishments of these Fathers of the Church, we become uplifted and suddenly our seasonal melancholy is erased, cured, and goes by the wayside.

This doctor's treatment for holiday withdrawal: Prayer, fasting when appropriate, reading and studying the Bible, partaking of Holy Communion, by attending the services at church, and having to God! Let us partake of the Living Water which is given to us by God. We have been deeded Heaven by God. Let us live our lives to the fullest by giving God the glory. In doing so, we become spiritually uplifted, joyous, and have sense of fulfillment. Now that's the cure for the post-holiday blues! We need regular fellowship with other faithful Orthodox Christians. With a feeling of a sense of community we become uplifted...by raising our hearts through the Logos and the recent celebration of our Lord's Holy Theophany, I remain

Prayerfully, in His service, putting on Christ,

+Fr. Michael

## Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner



Today we celebrate the Synaxis in honour of the most sacred Forerunner, since he ministered at the Mystery of the Divine Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Apolytikion of Synaxis of John the Forerunner Second Tone**

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

## Afterfeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



### **First Tone**

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.

## Cedd, Bishop of Scotland

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS...**that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:45 pm.

Next Sunday, January 14th, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, in our Fellowship Hall, we will have the cutting of the Vasilopita and the auctioning of the Vasilopita to raise funds for St. Basil's Academy.

*Nothing can be clearer or mightier than the truth, just as nothing is weaker than falsehood, though it be shaded by ten thousand veils...*

*St. John Chrysostom*

*Unless the grace of God comes to the help of our frailty, to protect and defend it, no man can withstand the insidious onslaughts of the enemy nor can he damp down or hold in check the fevers which burn in our flesh with nature's fire.*

*St. John Cassian*

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact the Parish Council President or a member of the council. **Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.**