

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

ST. MELANI OF ROME

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy, Chapter 4, Verses 5-8. It is found in our books on pages 154.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος: Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Δευτέρως Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 5-8: Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτῆς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, Chapter 1, Verses 1-8. It is found in our books on pages 319-321.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-8. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 318-320.

Today's *Apolytikon* (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Five (Plagal 1):

Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word, who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation. As the faithful, we both praise and worship Him for, in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross, and death did He endure, and the dead He raised unto life though His all-glorious Resurrection.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν· ὅτι ἠυδόκησε σαρκὶ ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειραὶ τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: (*Sundays, 9 a.m., upstairs*). This class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey. It is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice by reading selections from Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month (rather than every Sunday). The schedule for the next two months is: January 7, 14, February 4, 11.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNON: This morning's Memorial Services are being held for the repose of the soul of our brother **Michael Stamatopoulos**, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago.

NEW YEAR'S DAY & THEOPHANY SERVICES: Tomorrow is the Great Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord, as well as the feast of St. Basil the Great. Orthros begins at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:15 a.m. On Friday, which is the Eve of Theophany, the Great Hours will be celebrated beginning at 10 a.m. This will be followed by the Vespertine Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, at 10 a.m., and the Blessing of the Waters. On Saturday, January 6, which is the Great Feast of Theophany (recalling the Baptism of our Lord and the Manifestation of the Holy Trinity), the Orthros will begin at 9 a.m., followed at 10 a.m. by the Blessing of the Waters and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

VASILOPITA: BRUNCH NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7: Bring your family and friends and join us as we celebrate with our Annunciation family at our 2018 Vasilopita Brunch. The lunch, sponsored by the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos, will take place on Sunday, January 7, following the Divine Liturgy. The donation of \$20 per person (\$10 for children), will benefit St. Basil's Academy. Members of the Ladies Philoptochos are available following the Divine Liturgy, today and tomorrow, to take your reservations. Reserving helps us plan accordingly. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: On December 3rd, the Cathedral officially launched its 2018 Stewardship Campaign. We cannot stress how important it is for everyone, age 18 and above, who considers the Cathedral to be your home parish, to support its ministries through Stewardship. For, we are a family, and a family needs all its members doing their part, in order for it to be a happy, functioning family. In an effort to properly acknowledge and thank you for your support, we will list the names of all Stewards in our February *Herald*. In case you've misplaced your card or if you wish additional cards for family members, these, as well as information about our Stewardship program, may be found at the *pangari*. They are in an envelope marked "Stewardship." We also invite you to direct any questions you may have concerning our Stewardship program, to Father Stephen or a member of the Parish Council Stewardship Team. Let's make 2018 a banner year for Stewardship for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!

DANCE PRACTICE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: Dance practice will take place this Friday, January 5, beginning at 6:15 p.m., and also on Saturday, January 6, at 12:30 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT DANCE PRACTICE: Young Adult dance practice will not take place this Tuesday, January 2, beginning at 7 p.m.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice will take place Wednesday, January 3 and Thursday, January 4, beginning at 7 p.m. both days.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 7: Sunday School will not meet today Sunday, December 31, but will resume next Sunday, January 7.

GREEK SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 6: Greek School classes will not take place this Saturday,

CLOSER AND CLOSER: We're in the home stretch. As you can see, we are nearing **completion of the exterior**. We are waiting for our conditional use permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. Tentatively, we've been given February 1, 2018 for utilization of our parking. As for the **interior**: we hope to locate a contractor by the end of 2017 for the upper interior wall installation. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. First, we have outstanding pledges, to the tune of \$550,000. May we ask you to make good on your Building Fund pledges by the end of 2017? This will enable us to continue rebuilding. If you have not yet contributed, won't you consider making your gift this calendar year, before December 31, as your gift is fully tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law? More importantly, you will experience the joy of giving (and to such a historic undertaking!), helping make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the *heart of our Great City*. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* **(from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγιασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν). (Exodus 25:8)**. When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. More than likely, this will take place to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. We're in the home stretch, Annunciation!



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."

(Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew, Ground breaking,
November 6, 1997)