



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2024

Ἡ Σύναξις τοῦ τιμίου ἐνδόξου Προφήτου, Προδρόμου καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου ἤχος πλ. β', ἑωθινὸν θ'

Η ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ

Τὴν ἐπομένη ἡμέρα τῶν Θεοφανίων καθιερώθηκε νὰ εορτάζουμε, τὴ μνήμη τοῦ πανίερου προφήτη Ἰωάννη Προδρόμου. Ὁ Ἰωάννης ἦταν γίος τοῦ ἱερέα Ζαχαρία καὶ τῆς Ἐλισάβετ. Μέχρι τὰ τριάντα τοῦ χρόνια, ζεῖ ἀσκητικὴ ζωὴ στὴν ἐρημο τῆς Ἰουδαίας, ἀφιερωμένη ολοκληρωτικὰ στὴν προσευχὴ, τὴ μελέτη καὶ τὴν πνευματικὴ καὶ ἠθικὴ τελειοποίησι. Τὸ ρούχο τοῦ ἦταν ἀπὸ τρίχες καμήλας, στὴ μέση τοῦ εἶχε δερμάτινη ζώνη καὶ τὴν τροφὴ τοῦ ἀποτελοῦσαν ἀκρίδες καὶ ἀγριο μέλι. Με μορφή ἠλιοκαμένη, σοβαρός, αξιοπρεπής καὶ δυναμικός, ὁ Ἰωάννης φάνερωνε ἀμέσως φυσιογνωμία ἐκτακτὴ καὶ υπέροχη. Εἶχε ὅλα τὰ προσόντα μεγάλου καὶ ἐπιβλητικοῦ κήρυκα τοῦ θεοῦ λόγου. Ἐτσι, με μεγάλη χάρη κήρυττε «τὰ πλήθη». Κατακραίνωνε καὶ χτυποῦσε σκληρὰ τὴ φαρισαϊκὴ ἀλαζονικὴ ἐπαρση, ποὺ κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ ἐξωτερικὸ ἔνδυμα τῆς ψευτοαγιότητος ἐκρῦβε τὶς πιο ἀηδιαστικὰς πληγὰς ψυχικῆς σκληρότητος καὶ ἀκαθαρσίας. Γενικά, ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ συνοψίζεται στὴ χαρακτηριστικὴ φράση τοῦ: «Μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν», προετοιμάζοντας, ἔτσι, τὸ δρόμο τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ γιὰ τὸ σωτήριο ἔργο Του. Ὄταν ὁ Χριστὸς ἀρχισε τὴ δημόσια δράση τοῦ, ὁ κόσμος ἀφῆνε σιγά-σιγά τὸν Ἰωάννη καὶ ἀκολουθοῦσε Αὐτόν. Ἡ ἀντιστροφή αὐτὴ, βέβαια, θα προκαλοῦσε μεγάλη πίκρα καὶ θα γεννοῦσε ἀγκάθια ζήλειος καὶ φθόνου σ' ἓναν, ἐκτὸς χριστιανικοῦ πνεύματος, διδάσκαλο ἢ φιλόσοφο. Ἀντίθετα, στὸν Ἰωάννη προκάλεσε μεγάλη χαρὰ καὶ ευφροσύνη. Ἡ γιορτὴ αὐτὴ τοῦ Ἰωάννου τοῦ Προδρόμου, γιὰ τὸν ὅποιο ὁ Κύριος εἶπε ὅτι κανεὶς ἄνθρωπος δε στάθηκε μεγαλύτερος τοῦ, καθιερώθηκε τὸν 5ο μ.Χ. αἰώνα.

Synaxis in Honor of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. Mode Plagal 2. Eothinon 9

SYNAXIS OF THE FORERUNNER

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism. The holy Prophet John, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, was related to the Lord on His mother's side. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome.

Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου. Θεὸς Κύριος καὶ ἐπέφανεν ἡμῖν. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ ὑπὸ Ἰωάννου βαπτισθεὶς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

Ἦχος α΄

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἴδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

Ἦχος πλ. β΄

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ Ἰστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ᾄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωρούμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀνασταὶς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

Ἦχος β΄

Μνήμη Δικαίου μέτ' ἐγκωμίων, σοὶ δεῦρ ἀρκέσει ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Κυρίου Πρόδρομο· ἀνεδείχθης γὰρ ὄντως καὶ Προφητῶν σεβασμιώτερος, ὅτι καὶ ἐν ρείθροις βαπτίσει κατηξιώθης τὸν κηρυττόμενον. Ὅθεν τῆς ἀληθείας ὑπεραθλήσας, χαίρων εὐηγγελίσω καὶ τοῖς ἐν Ἄιδῃ, Θεὸν φανερωθέντα ἐν σαρκί, τὸν αἴροντα τὴν ἀμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ παρέχοντα ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τὸν δούλον σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἡμαρτον, συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰμὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τὸν μεταστᾶντα δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Ἦχος δ΄

Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσητε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερύγων, τῆς ἀύλου ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βοῶντας· Ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξιάρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

Ἦχος πλ. α΄

Τὴν πανεύφημον νύμφην Χριστοῦ ὑμνήσωμεν, Αἰκατερίναν τὴν θείαν καὶ πολιοῦχον Σινᾶ, τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀντίληψιν, ὅτι ἐφίμωσε λαμπρῶς, τοὺς κομψοὺς τῶν ἀσεβῶν, τοῦ Πνεύματος τῆς μαχαίρα, καὶ νῦν ὡς Μάρτυς στεφθεῖσα, αἰτεῖται πᾶσι τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Save us, O Son of God, who were baptized in the Jordan by John. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Mode 1

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Mode Plagal 2

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Mode 2

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

Mode Plagal 4

Remember, Lord, as the Good One, your servant, and forgive them in whatever they have sinned in life. No one is without sin, except for you the Mighty One, and show rest to the departed.

Mode 4

O Chief Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy now entreat you in earnest, to fortify us by your supplications to the Lord, and shelter us beneath the wings of your spiritual glory, guarding us who run to you and fervently entreat you: As the Commanders of the hosts on high, rescue us faithful from dangers of every kind.

Mode Plagal 1

Let us praise and extol the all-lauded Bride of Christ, the Protectress of Sinai, divine Saint Catherine, as the one who gives aid and her assistance to us; for she brilliantly suppressed the impious orators, with the sword of the Spirit. And being crowned as a martyr, she asks that all receive the great mercy.

Κοντάκιον. Ἦχος δ΄

Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τῆ οἰκουμένη, καὶ τὸ φῶς σου Κύριε, ἐσημειώθη ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει ὑμνοῦντάς σε. Ἦλθες ἐφάνης τὸ Φῶς τὸ ἀπρόσιτον.

Πρ 19:1-8

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ τὸν Ἀπολλῶ εἶναι ἐν Κορίνθῳ Παῦλον διελθόντα τὰ ἀνωτερικὰ μέρη ἐλθεῖν εἰς Ἔφεσον· καὶ εὐρῶν μαθητὰς τινὰς εἶπε πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰ Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον ἐλάβετε πιστεύσαντες; οἱ δὲ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτόν· ἀλλ' οὐδὲ εἰ Πνεῦμα Ἅγιόν ἐστιν ἠκούσαμεν. Εἶπέ τε πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰς τί οὖν ἐβαπτίσθητε; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· εἰς τὸ Ἰωάννου βάπτισμα. Εἶπε δὲ Παῦλος· Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισε βάπτισμα μετανοίας, τῷ λαῷ λέγων εἰς τὸν ἐρχόμενον μετ' αὐτόν ἵνα πιστεύσωσι, τοῦτ' ἔστιν εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. Ἀκούσαντες δὲ ἐβαπτίσθησαν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ. Καὶ ἐπιθέντος αὐτοῖς τοῦ Παύλου τὰς χεῖρας ἦλθε τὸ Πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ Ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτούς, ἐλάλουν τε γλώσσαις καὶ προεφήτευσαν. Ἦσαν δὲ οἱ πάντες ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ δεκαδύο. Εἰσελθὼν δὲ εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν ἐπαρρήσιάζετο ἐπὶ μῆνας τρεῖς διαλεγόμενος, καὶ πείθων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ιωα 1:29-34

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, βλέπει ὁ Ἰωάννης τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτόν καὶ λέγει· Ἴδε ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. οὗτός ἐστι περὶ οὗ ἐγὼ εἶπον· ὀπίσω μου ἔρχεται ἀνὴρ ὃς ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὃτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῆ τῷ Ἰσραὴλ, διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι βαπτίζων. καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι τεθεάμαι τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον ὡς περιστραπὴν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με βαπτίζειν ἐν ὕδατι, ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν· ἐφ' ὃν ἂν ἴδῃς τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον καὶ μένον ἐπ' αὐτόν, οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ. κἀγὼ ἐώρακα καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Kontakion. Mode 4

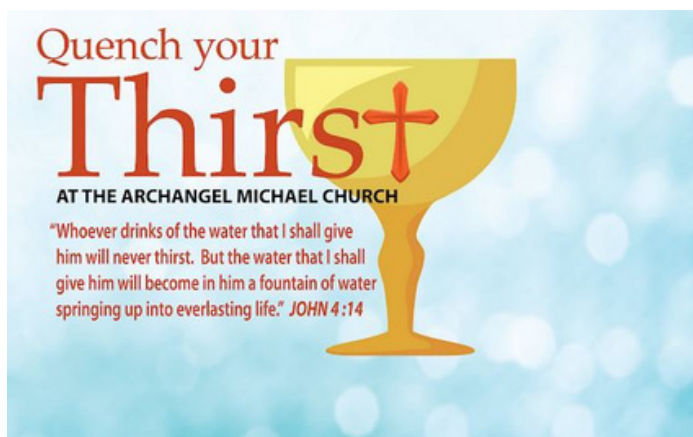
You appeared today to us on earth, O Master, and Your light was signed on us who cry aloud to You and say with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.

Acts 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.

Jn. 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."



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Today's Memorials:

- ~ 1 year for Louis Karitenos
- ~ 1 year for Despina Raftopoulos

May their Memory be Eternal!

Today's 40 Day Baby Blessing:

Cora Eleni, daughter of
Joanne & Anthony Ventimiglia

If you, or someone you know, is homebound, in a hospital or nursing home, and would like to receive Holy Communion during the Epiphany Season, please call the Church office to schedule a pastoral visit.

Likewise, please call us if you'd like one of our priests to bless your home or business during this Season of the Epiphany.

Saints of the Week:

- Jan. 8th ~ St. George Hozeva, St. Dominica the Righteous
- Jan. 9th ~ St. Polyeuctos the Martyr, St. Eustratios the Wonderworker
- Jan. 10th ~ St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene
- Jan. 11th ~ St. Theodosios the Cenobiarch, St. Vitalis of Gaza
- Jan. 12th ~ St. Tatiana, the Martyr, St. Mertios the Martyr
- Jan. 13th ~ St. Hermylos & Stratonikos, St. Maximos the Righteous
- Jan. 14th ~ Fathers Slain at Sinai & Raitho, Leavetaking of the Theophany

This Week's Feastdays & Services:

Tuesday, January 9th ~ Business Men's Liturgy 6:15am

Sunday, January 14th ~ Leavetaking of the Theophany

Orthros 8am, Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- ~ Young at Heart - January 9th
- ~ Cub Scouts - January 12th
- ~ Cooking Club - January 13th
- ~ Philoptochos Book Signing / Wine & Cheese Meeting - January 23rd
- ~ GOYA Homeless Drive - January 26th
- ~ Greek Language Institute's PTO Glendi - January 28th

~ Stewardship is not a program or an appeal. It is a way of life ~