



ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH

Protopresbyter John K. Lardas, Proistamenos

| Protopresbyter Dennis Strouzas

100 Fairway Drive Port Washington, NY 11050

Ph. (516) 944-3180 | Email. info@archangelmichaelchurch.org



SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2025 | Ἦχος δ', Ἑωθινόν Ζ' | 4th Tone, 7th Morning Gospel

REFLECTION

There is no greater honor or greater calling on earth than to be a Christian. When the judge-torturer Sevirus asked the young Peter Apselamus: "Of what lineage are you?" Peter replied: "I am a Christian." The judge further inquired of him: "What rank are you?" To this, Peter responded: "There is no greater or better rank than that of a Christian." Father John Kronstadt writes: "The whole world is but a cobweb in comparison to the human soul of a Christian." The Christian is an earthen vessel into which is poured divine power and light. Whether this vessel is placed on a golden royal throne or whether it is lowered into a dark hut of a beggar, its value will be neither magnified nor diminished. Does not gold have the same value whether it is wrapped in a silk handkerchief or in a cabbage leaf?

CONTEMPLATION

Contemplate the meekness of the Lord Jesus:

1. His meekness in His hidden life in Nazareth until the age of thirty;
2. His meekness in dealing with the sick and with sinners;
3. His meekness in dealing with Judas the traitor and with the unjust judges.

HOMILY

on how man is most dear to God and God to man

"For I seek not yours, but you" (II Corinthians 12:14).

These words, which could have only been spoken by the fiery apostolic love toward one's neighbor, express the essence of the relationship of the Christian toward God, and of God toward the Christian. The love of God could very well say: "Thou, O Christian, fastest for My sake; for My sake thou dost distribute alms; for My sake thou dost lift up heartfelt prayers; for My sake thou buildest churches; for My sake thou offerest sacrifices and performest many other good deeds. All of this is good, and all of this is pleasing to Me, but thou art more precious to Me than all of this. In the end, I seek nothing of all of this; rather, I seek thee, only thee."

The love of a Christian could very well say: "O Lord, Thou gavest me health and that is good. Thou kindlest the light; Thou permittest the rain to fall; Thou dost refresh the air by Thy thunder, and that is good. Thou bestowest wealth, wisdom, many years, offspring and many other good things which Thou dost bountifully set on the table of this life. All of this is good and most good. I receive all of this with gratitude. But, in the ultimate end, that is only the hem of Thy garment. Ultimately, I do not seek anything of that, but Thee, O Lord--Thee alone do I seek."

O my brethren, that which is seen with the physical eyes is not God, and that which is seen with the physical eyes is not man. That which is seen in the whole of nature is only something of God; and that which is seen in the physical garment is only something of man. Brethren, God is Love that lowers heaven to earth. Brethren, man is love that raises earth to heaven.

O Lord, Lover of mankind, Creator and Almighty, take up Thine abode more and even more within us, with Thy Life-giving Spirit, that we may live; that we may be alive in Thy kingdom without death.

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

From The Prologue of Ochrid

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ: ΜΕΤΑ ΤΑ ΦΩΤΑ. Τῆς Ἁγίας Μάρτυρος Τατιανῆς. Τῶν Ἁγίων Ἱερομαρτύρων Βασιλείου καὶ Ἰωάννου

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

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 εἶδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου το ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεὶς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος δ΄

Τὸ φαῖδρον τῆς ἀναστάσεως κήρυγμα, ἐκ τοῦ Ἀγγέλου μαθοῦσαι αἱ τοῦ Κυρίου Μαθήτριάι, καὶ τὴν προγονικὴν ἀπόφασιν ἀπορρίψασαι, τοῖς Ἀποστόλοις καυχώμενα ἔλεγον· Ἐσκύλευται ὁ θάνατος, ἠγέρθη Χριστὸς ὁ Θεός, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Κεκοιμένων. Ἦχος πλ. δ΄

Μνήσθητι Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τοῦ (τῆς, τῶν) δούλου (δούλης, δούλων) σου, καὶ ὅσα ἐν βίῳ ἤμαρτεν (ἤμαρτεν, ἤμαρτον) συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος, εἰ μὴ Σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τῷ (τῆ, τοῖς) μεταστάντι (μεταστάση, μεταστάσι) δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. Ἦχος δ΄

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

Κοντάκιον

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

SUNDAY: AFTER THEOPHANY. The Holy Martyr Tatiana. The Holy Hier-Martyr Vasilios and John

Apolytikion of the Feast

When You were baptized in the River Jordan, O Lord, it was revealed that God is worshiped in Trinity. For the voice of the Father, who had begotten You, also bore witness to You, calling You "beloved Son," and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed that what was said is true. In Your epiphany, O Christ God, You appeared and illumined the world. Glory to You!

Resurrectional Apolytikion. 4th Tone

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!"

Apolytikion for the Departed. Tone Plagal 4th

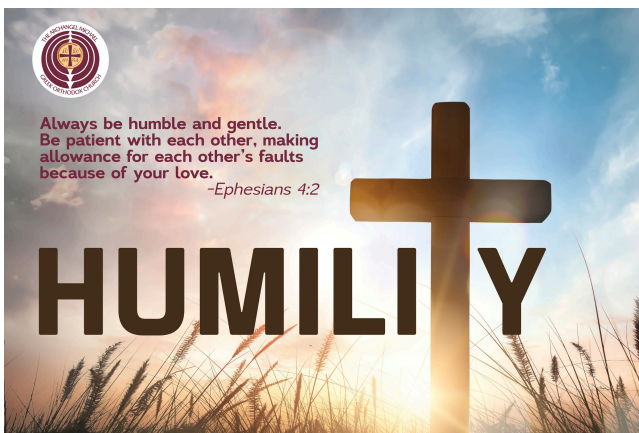
Remember, O Lord, as You are Good, your servant(s), and forgive every sin he (she,they) have committed in this life. For no one is sinless, except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Apolytikion of the Church. Tone 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.

Κοντάκιον

You revealed yourself today on earth, O Master, * and Your light was stamped on us, who in the knowledge of the truth, * O Lord, extol Your epiphany. * You came; You revealed yourself, O unapproachable Light.



Prokeimenon. Mode 1, Psalm 32.22,1
Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17
Εὐαγγελίου τοῦ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δεῶν Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρεθὲν ἔλθων κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῆ ἡ ρῆθὲν δια Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθημένος ἐν σκότεινῳ φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπο τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἡγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

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The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

SYNTAXARION

Jan 13 -Sts. Hermylos & Stratonikos; St. Maximos the Righteous

Jan 14 -Fathers Slain at Sinai & Raitho

Jan 15 -St. Paul of Thebes, St. John the Cave Dweller

Jan 16 -Veneration of St. Peter's Precious Chains, St. Makarios Kalogeras of Patmos

Jan 17 -St. Anthony the Great, St. Anthony of Veria*

Jan 18 -St. Anthanasios & Cyril; St. Xenia, Martyr**

Attention All Bakers:

Any offerings of Prosfora would be much appreciated!

If you, or someone you know, would like a home, hospital, or nursing home visit during the Epiphany Season, please call the Church office to schedule an appointment with Fr. John.

EVENTS

Jan. 14th ~ Young at Heart

Jan. 20th ~ Church Office is Closed

Jan. 21st ~ Philotochos Event

Jan. 24th ~ Cub Scout Event

Jan. 25th ~ Little Angels

Jan. 26th ~ Greek School Glendi

Jan. 28th ~ Cooking Club

Special Needs Support Group

Jan. 30th ~ OPA-cize Class

Jan. 31st ~ GOYA Homeless Event

Feb. 7th ~ Night to Shine Event

(sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation)



Lovely Little Voices

**JOIN US FOR A
SENSORY SPEECH CLASS**

**SPEECH & LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT
THROUGH THEME-BASED LEARNING**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH

9:30-10:45 AM

AGES 6 MONTHS TO 4 YEARS

A M C

RSVP FOR ATTENDANCE

BY JANUARY 21ST

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MEMORIALS

40 days for Anthony Christie

40 days for Barbara Economos

40 days for Marika Kougioulis

40 days for Christos Psarras

1 year for Martha Klironomos

5 years for Irene Pappachristides

47 years for Michael Pappachristides

May their Memory be Eternal!

*Today's Coffee Hour is being sponsored by the family of
Christos Psarras, in his Memory.*

**Today will be the swearing-in
of our new Parish Council Members
for 2025 and the cutting of our Vasilopita!**

2025 Parish Council Members:

Michael Bapis

Michael Cavounis

Stelios Diakoumakis

Demetrios Frangiskatos

Peter Gerazounis

Eleni Germanakos

James Gianakis

John Halkias

Joseph Isaakidis

Georgios Kaparos

Nick Koutsoftas

Michele Lascarides

Helen Maropakis

Chris Neocleous

Nicholas Papain

Michael Psyllos

Gus Rogdakis

Jim Sfiroudis

Ted Stefas

Nicholas Tagios

Ted Vlachos

*During this Holy Season of the
Epiphany,
Please call the
Church Office
To Schedule your
House Blessing!*