

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska

Rev. Peter J. Pappas, Presbyter - Phone (402) 871-6241



Sunday, January 8, 2012

Sunday after Theophany; Venerable Father George the Chozebite; Domnica of Constantinople; Martyrs Julian, Basilissa, Celsus, and Anthony (+4th c.); Carterius of Caesarea (+3rd c.); Agathon of Egypt; Emilian the Confessor

The Bread of the Offering (*Prophoro*) was prepared by Helen Amlin.

Parish Council Ushers: George Barelos / Elaine Poulos / Judy Stom / Elaine Schall

Community Ushers: Parish Council Members

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Entrance



Hymn of Theophany (First Tone)

When You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father bore You witness, by calling You Beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of dove, confirmed the truth of this declaration. O Christ our God, who have appeared and enlightened the world, glory to You!

Entrance Hymn (Second Tone): Come, let us bow down to Christ, as we worship Him, the Son of God. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead. We sing to You, "Alleluia!"

Resurrectional Hymn (Plagal of the First Tone)

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 He raised unto life the dead through His all glorious resurrection.

Hymn of Theophany (First Tone) - Repeat

Hymn of St. John the Baptizer (Second Tone)

A righteous man is remembered with praise, for you Forerunner the Lord's witness is enough. You were shown to be greater in honor than the prophets, for you were privileged to baptize in the stream the One you had foretold. Therefore, rejoicing, you suffered for the sake of truth, and you proclaimed the good news to those in Hades, that God had appeared in the flesh to take away the sin of the world, and grant our souls His great mercy.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

Help Our Parish Become Souper Bowl Champions!

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2012, team up with our parish's youth to help the needy in our community and around the world. Help our team in the "Souper Bowl of Caring" by bringing one dollar and a canned good with you to the Divine Liturgy. Please support this effort and help our parish become Souper Bowl Champions!



International Orthodox Christian Charities

P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225

Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622 • Fax: (410) 243-9824

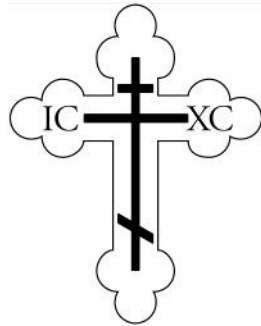
Internet: www.iocc.org



VASILOPITA CELEBRATION 2012

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church in Omaha, Nebraska once again invites the entire Parish and friends to participate in our Annual *Vasilopita* observance **today** immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Come and recognize those who serve in our parish. Help keep our Orthodox traditions and customs alive by your participation.



The celebration will feature our traditional fast-paced audible auction format.

All proceeds benefit the charitable projects of our local chapter and the national Philoptochos, including St. Basil Academy.

Kontakion Hymn of Theophany (Third Tone)

From above You appeared today, to those that dwell on the earth, and, O Lord, Your light has left its mark upon all of us, who in true knowledge sing to You: "You came, You appeared, the unapproachable Light."



The Readings

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 (p. 210 in the pew Bibles)
Reader: John Kotsalis
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 (p. 4 in the pew Bibles)

Forty-Day Blessing of Mother and Child

Yianni Richard Mulkey, born on November 27; son of Dina (Sakkas) and Jay Mulkey; brother of Eliana; grandson of John and Demetra Sakkas, Louise (Sheldon) Turkel, and Richard Mulkey; great-grandson of Theodora Barelos.

Welcome, Visitors! Please join us for refreshments following the Divine Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Today's fellowship hour is sponsored by John and Demetra Sakkas.

Church School classes will meet following Holy Communion until 12:00 noon.

Congratulations to Bogdan Cocris and Veronica Doga for the baptism of their daughter, Vanessa Maria Cocris, at St. John's on January 7.

Attention, Ladies! Plan to attend the regular meeting of the St. John's Philoptochos Society on Tuesday, January 10, 6:00 p.m. at the church.

Join us during the new year as we explore the Gospel of John at our prayer group and Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Make plans now to attend the Metropolis of Chicago Western Region Family Basketball Tournament, February 10-12, 2012 in St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, please contact Charlie Tsatsos. Team Spirit ... Pass it on!

Keeping you informed: See the minutes of Parish Council meetings and other useful information on the bulletin board downstairs in the fellowship hall.



It is ironic that, in being more connected than ever, we are also more alone than ever because we do not develop deep, authentic relationships. This is precisely why our church is making the effort to have a presence in media. Learn about the ministry of the Orthodox Christian network next Sunday, January 15.

What wondrous gifts our God has given us!

The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

January 6

The Holy Trinity is made manifest on earth for our salvation.

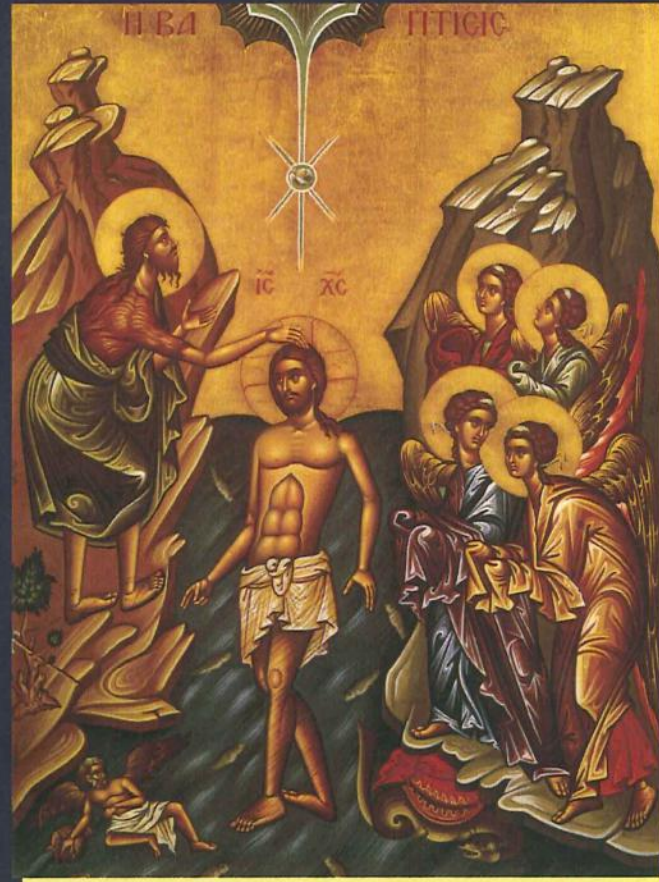
- + St. John the Baptist touches Christ's head, indicating His humanity.
- + He also gestures toward heaven with his left hand, indicating Christ's divinity.
- + It is not the Baptist who blesses Christ, but Christ who blesses St. John when he puts his hand upon His head.



- + Christ is baptized, not because He needs purification, but "to identify Himself with our purification," says St. John of Damaskos.
- + Humbly, Christ identifies with mankind, in all our brokenness.
- + His has come to earth to redeem us from our sins!



- + The voice of the Father and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, reveal Christ as one of the Holy Trinity.
- + A dove reminds us of Noah's flood. The moment of Christ's baptism indicates our release from the flood of sin.



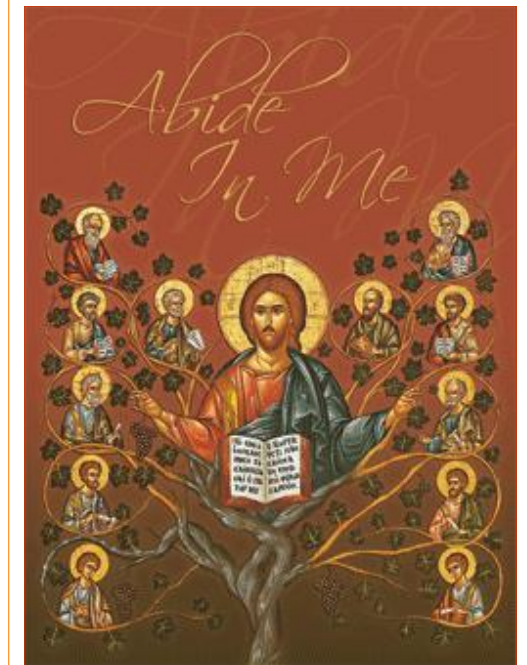
- + Angels are shown attending to and glorifying the Lord.
- + Covered hands and bowed heads show submission to the God-made-man.
- + Their response to Our Lord and Savior is what ours is supposed to be, as well.



- + A tree bearing no good fruit is shown with an axe, ready to be cut down.
- + St. John the Baptist warns us not to be fruitless, saying, "The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matthew 3:10).
- + What a contrast to Christ's ministry, which produces every good fruit!



- + By Christ's baptism, water itself was blessed, becoming water of renewal.
- + Fish swim both down and upstream. Why? To show the Jordan River and the seas are turned back, as was foretold in Psalm 113.
- + The Jordan is represented as a man fleeing and the seas are symbolized by a sea dragon.



Stewardship 2012

Please prayerfully consider your commitment of time, talents, and treasures to our parish for the coming year and return your commitment card today. Help us meet our goal of \$172,000 which is necessary to sustain the ministries of our community. Watch for details regarding online contributions. Offering envelopes for adults and children are available to assist you in fulfilling your commitment. If you wish to receive a set of envelopes or have any questions about our stewardship program, contact Elaine Schall at (402) 498-0306 or e-mail eschall@aol.com.

What can we give back?



Developed by the
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
Office of Parish Development
www.development.goarch.org
(847)825-1432

Looking Ahead...

Today	1/8	<i>Vasilopita</i> Celebration 2012	12:00 noon
Tuesday	1/10	Philoptochos	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday	1/11	Prayer Group and Bible Study	11:00 a.m.
Thursday	1/12	Greek School	6:00 p.m.
Sunday	1/15	Matins (Ushers: Team C)	9:00 a.m.
		Divine Liturgy (<i>Prosporo</i> : Kathy Poulos)	10:00 a.m.
		(Ushers: Sofia Kuehn / Helen Murray)	
		Share the Light Sunday / Memorial Prayers	
		Ehler Baptism	2:00 p.m.