

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska

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



Sunday, December 21, 2014

Sunday before the Nativity: The Genealogy of Christ; Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia and her 630 companions (+309); Martyr Themistocles of Myra (+251); Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow (+1326); Anastasia the Great Martyr (December 22)

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

Parish Council Ushers: Craig Clawson / Zach Sideris / Chris Tsardoulis

Community Ushers: Nick and Tasia Koliopoulos

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Entrance



Resurrectional Hymn (Third Tone)

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

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 (Third Tone) - Repeat

Hymn of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Fourth Tone)

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden is open to all. Adorn yourself O Ephratha, for in the cave the Tree of Life has blossomed forth from the Virgin. Her womb has been revealed as a noetic Paradise wherein lies the divine seedling. If we partake of it we shall live; if not, then we shall die as Adam. Christ is born, restoring the image that had fallen.

Hymn of the Forefathers (Second Tone)

Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame, the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the Prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

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.

Kontakion Hymn of the Nativity of our Lord (Third Tone)

The virgin on this day comes to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, therefore, O earth, at the message. With the angels and the shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is God before the ages.



The Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9,10,32-40 (p. 244 in the pew Bibles)

Reader: Scott Eanes

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 (p. 1 in the pew Bibles)

Welcome, Visitors! Please join us for refreshments, our Christmas program, and the cookie walk sale following the Divine Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Today's fellowship hour is sponsored Steven and Suzanne Holczer Rief.

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

Remember the Food Pantry! During the month of December, please bring baby food, baby cereal, formula, and diapers. All food items are always welcome. It's a baby shower for the Savior!

Condolences to the family of Sophia Pappas, who fell asleep in the Lord in Des Moines, Iowa. Services will be held at St. John's on Friday, December 26 with further arrangements pending by Crosby Burket Swanson Golden Funeral Home. May her memory be eternal!

Spirit of Giving: Our *Philoptochos* will distribute a limited number of food baskets to neighborhood families for Christmas. These packages come with all the fixings to cook a meal for six. Please contact the church office if you would like to donate \$30 for a basket.

Congratulations to Irene Kuvetakis, who graduated from the University of Nebraska Omaha, receiving the degree Bachelor of Science in Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. Irene is the daughter of Steve and Niki Kuvetakis.

Vasilopita Celebration 2015 will be held on Sunday, January 11. Support the efforts of our *Philoptochos* and recognize those who serve in our parish. If you are able to bake one or more loaves for this event, please contact Suzanne Holczer (402-618-4258 or holczer13@gmail.com) or Sophia Tsardoulis (402-203-2189 or sofatax@hotmail.com).

Make plans now to attend the Metropolis of Chicago Western Region Family Basketball Tournament, February 13-15, 2015 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For more information, contact Fr. Peter and see <http://www.greekball.org>.

Oratorical Festival: Topics are now available for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Arts Festival. All children in grades 4-12 should begin planning their speeches and other creative expressions of faith for our upcoming parish festival in the Spring.

St. John's Church School
"A Christmas Special"



This year's Christmas program will include a student produced video and songs performed live.

Today, December 21

following the Divine Liturgy in the Fellowship Hall

Please come and support our youth as they show us the greatest gift of all.

**Saint John's Christmas
Cookie Walk!!!**

Today, December 21

following the Divine Liturgy

\$10.00 a pound!

*** Proceeds to the Renovation Fund.**



***Services for the Nativity of our
Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ***

***Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Christ
Wednesday, December 24***

Royal Hours 10:00 a.m.

Matins 6:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.

Sunday after the Nativity, Sunday, December 28

Matins 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Day

Feast of St. Basil - Circumcision of our Lord

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 5 - Fast Day

Tuesday, January 6, Holy Theophany

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

(with the Blessing of Water)

Great Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptizer

The Nativity of Christ (Julian Calendar)

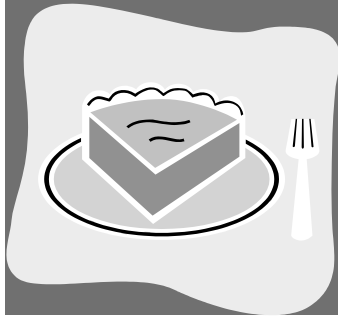
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday after Theophany, Sunday, January 11

Matins 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Vasilopita Celebration 2015



St. John's Greek Orthodox Church is offering

ROBIN'S CHEESECAKES

\$20 EACH

(Can be sliced into 8 large pieces or 12 small pieces)

Church pick up available on Sunday December, 28

OR by calling 402-659-5743

Make checks payable to "St. John's Renovator"

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Plain _____ Coconut Cream _____ Key Lime _____ Pumpkin _____

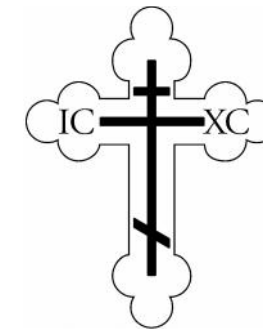
Egg Nogg _____ Chocolate _____ Total # of Cheesecakes _____



VASILOPITA CELEBRATION 2015

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 on Sunday, January 11, 2015 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.

Looking Ahead ...

Today	12/21	Christmas Program / Cookie Walk	11:50 a.m.
Wednesday	12/24	Royal Hours	10:00 a.m.
		Matins	6:00 p.m.
		Divine Liturgy - Nativity of our Lord	7:00 p.m.
Thursday	12/25	Merry Christmas!	
Saturday	12/27	Feast of the Protomartyr Stephen	
		Community Meal at First Baptist	11:00 a.m.
		Go Huskers!	7:00 p.m.
Sunday	12/28	Matins (Ushers: Team A)	9:00 a.m.
		Divine Liturgy (<i>Prophoro</i> : Abby Potratz)	10:00 a.m.
		(Ushers: Demetris and Vana Kotsalis)	
		Joseph the Betrothed, David the Prophet-King, and James the Brother of the Lord	