

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska

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



Sunday, December 25, 2011

Christmas Day: The Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

The Bread of the Offering (*Prosporo*) was prepared by Angie Lewis.

Parish Council Ushers: Craig Clawson, Zach Sideris, Lou Sinos

Community Ushers: Darlene Krin / John Kuvetakis

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Hymns of the Entrance



Hymn of the Nativity (Fourth Tone)

Your nativity, O Christ our God, did shine upon the world and through the light of wisdom illumined the universe. And to those who held the stars in worship did through a star learn to worship: You, the sun of Righteousness and came to know You, the Light from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Entrance Hymn (Second Tone): From the womb before the morning star I have begotten you. The Lord has sworn, and He will not relent; You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Save us, O Son of God, who were born of the Virgin. We sing to You "Alleluia!"

Hymn of the Nativity (Fourth Tone) - Repeat

Kontakion Hymn of the Nativity (Third Tone)

The virgin on this day brings forth the One who is above all things. And the earth provides a cave for the One who is beyond man's touch. Angels, with lowly shepherds, now give their glory. Magi follow a star as they journey, when for our sake is born, as a young child, He who was God before the ages.

In place of the *Trisagion* Hymn: "All who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). "Alleluia!"



The Readings

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7 (p. 205 in the pew Bibles)

Reader: Emmanuel "Mike" Vlassakis

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-20 (p. 2 in the pew Bibles)

Megalynarion: All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace: the assembly of angels and the human race. You are a sanctified temple and a spiritual paradise, the glory from whom God was incarnate and became a child; our God, existing before all ages. He made your womb a throne, and your body more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O full of grace. Glory to you.

Communion Hymn: The Lord has sent redemption to His people. Alleluia!

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion

“Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup” (1 Corinthians 11:28).

While everyone is welcome to join us in worship, Holy Communion is reserved for those baptized in the Orthodox faith or received through chrismation. Preparation for Orthodox Christians includes the following:

- A living faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. No one is worthy to receive the body and blood of Christ. We are made worthy through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Confession of sins. This includes personal prayer and sacramental confession.
 - Right relationships. This includes peace with our families and fellow parishioners as well as adherence to Christian principles on marriage, divorce, and sexuality.
 - Keeping the prescribed fasts of the church as an aid in prayer, repentance, and self-examination, including abstinence prior to the Divine Liturgy.
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Welcome, Visitors! Please join us for refreshments following the Divine Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Sponsored by the Sourtas Family— Dimitri, Robin and Nicholas.

Church School classes for Pre-School through Young Adults will resume on January 8.

Congratulations to Dimitri, Robin, and Nicholas Sourtas who were received into the Orthodox Church through the sacraments of baptism and chrismation last Sunday, December 18 here at St. John’s. Dimitri and Nicholas were baptized and their sponsors are Lou Sinos and Catherine Demes Maydew, respectively. Robin was received through the sacrament of chrismation, taking the name Barbara. Her sponsor is Cathy Miedl.

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!

Philoptochos Baklava Sale: Thank you to the “dynamic duo”, Helen Nick and Helen Amlin and all the wonderful people who worked to make these delicacies. We surpassed our sales from last year. To those that purchased baklava, we truly appreciate your support!

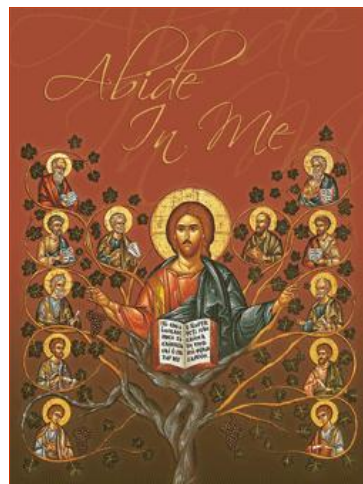
Oratorical Festival: Topics are now available for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Arts Festival. All children in grades 4-12 should begin planning their speeches and other creative expressions of faith for our upcoming parish festival on March 11, 2012.

Sharing the Joy of the Season: St. John’s is scheduled to host the Community Meal for those in need on Saturday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve) at First Baptist Church. Volunteers, please join us at 10:00 a.m. and contact Angie Lewis for details.

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

Stewardship 2012: Abide in Me!

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. 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.



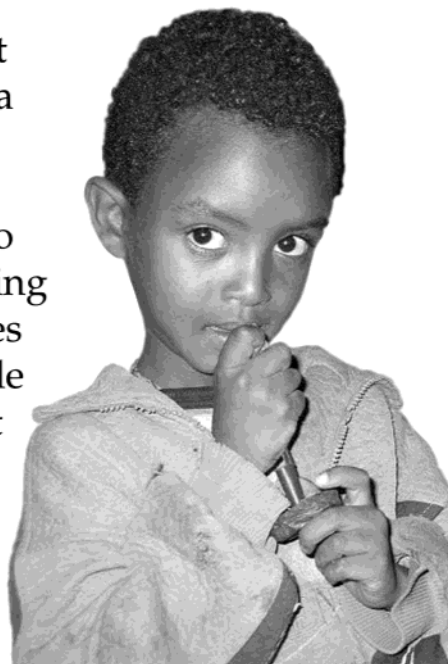
A Second Miracle at Christmas

Every Christmas, believers in Jesus Christ celebrate the miracle of God's birth from a Virgin. But God asks His people to make another miracle happen: giving to those who might not otherwise have a reason to celebrate this holiday season. By supporting International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the love of Christ is made tangible through emergency aid and development programs that provide true hope and self-sufficiency. Be the second miracle this Christmas. Give to IOCC.



IOCC • P.O. Box 630225 • Baltimore, MD 21263-0225
Toll-Free: (877) 803-4622 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • Internet: www.iocc.org

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



Christ is born! Glorify Him!

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise. Join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored: Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Joy to the world! The Lord has come:
Let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room.
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.



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

***Christmas Day - The Nativity of Christ
Sunday, December 25***

**Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

***New Year's Day
Feast of St. Basil – Circumcision of our Lord
Sunday, January 1, 2012***

**Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Thursday, January 5 - Fast Day

***Friday, January 6, Holy Theophany
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
(with the Blessing of Water)***

Great Vespers of St. John the Baptizer 6:30 p.m.

***Saturday, January 7, Synaxis of St. John the Baptizer
The Nativity of Christ (Julian Calendar)
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.***

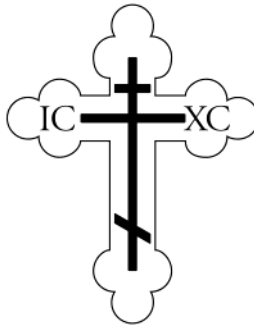
***Sunday after Theophany, Sunday, January 8
Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Vasilopita Celebration 2012***



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 on Sunday, January 8, 2012
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...

Saturday	12/31	Community Meal at First Baptist	11:00 a.m.
Sunday	1/1	Matins (Ushers: Team A)	9:00 a.m.
		Divine Liturgy (<i>Prophoro</i> : TBA)	10:00 a.m.
		(Ushers: Sofia Kuehn & Helen Murray)	
		New Year's Day / Family Worship / Feast of St. Basil	
Monday	1/2	Go Huskers!	12:00 noon
Thursday	1/5	Fast Day (Eve of Theophany)	
Friday	1/6	Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water	10:00 a.m.
		Great Vespers of St. John the Baptizer	6:30 p.m.
Saturday	1/7	Divine Liturgy of St. John the Baptizer	10:00 a.m.
		Nativity of Christ (Julian Calendar)	
		Cocris Baptism	2:00 p.m.