

**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
ST. GEORGE
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Very Reverend Archimandrite, Ambrose Bitziadis-Bowers, Dean



Today is: Sunday, January 6, 2019
Sunday of Holy Theophany

The Holy Epiphany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Τα Άγια Θεοφάνεια του Κυρίου και Σωτήρος ημών Ιησού Χριστού

Welcome to St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Whether you are a returning Greek Orthodox to our legendary St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, a newcomer to Philadelphia or the Greater Delaware Valley, or someone with an emerging interest in the Orthodox Faith, I, the Parish Council and all the parishioners and families of St. George Cathedral welcome you to our home where we have been serving for close to 100 years. Since the days of the first D. Liturgy back in 1911 in the original church and continuing through the current St. George Cathedral, the people of Orthodox faith have gathered together for prayer, faith foundation, worship, service to the poor and fellowship. As a parish community, some of our proudest moments come through the children served through our Religious Education and Greek School programs creating the next generation of Orthodox to serve here locally and to share the message of Christ throughout the world.

Our schools commit to teach as Jesus did; instilling a love of our Orthodox faith and love of neighbor. St. George Cathedral Religious and Greek Schools create a caring, respectful environment which promote the learning of language, history and tradition and religion, and develop faithful Christians and responsible citizens. The schools strive to reach each child through an engaging environment filled with hands on teaching and a true compassion for sacred life. Instilling a love for God, the teachings of Jesus and a true passion for learning are the most important lessons we can share with our children.

I ask that you go to the website of the Cathedral at: <http://saintgeorgecathedral.org/ministries/hellenic-language> for the Greek School and: <http://saintgeorgecathedral.org/ministries/religious-education> for the Religious Education School for an opportunity to learn more about our Cathedral Schools. Please contact the Director of the Religious Education School, Eleni Belisonzi at: ebelisonzi@gmail.com and Maria Marinou, the Director of the Greek School, at: mmf_graph@yahoo.gr or for both the office of the Cathedral at: 215-627-4389 for more information. They look forward to hearing from you!

I certainly hope you will acquaint yourself with what our schools have to offer by exploring our website and find something that interests you as well as encourage you to become an active member of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any other member of the parish staff, by calling the Parish Office at (215-627-4389) or office@stgeorgecathedral.org.

God Bless you all,

**Very Reverend Archimandrite Ambrose Bitziadis-Bowers
Dean of the Cathedral**

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

- Sun., Jan. 6** **EPIPHANY DAY**
8:45am the Orthros, 10:00am the Divine Liturgy
& Blessing of the Holy Water
*Vasilopita Cutting & Philoptochos Sisterhood
Luncheon. Proceeds benefit St. Basil's Academy,
Garrison, NY*
Artoklasia Service Fotios Athanasoulas Family
- Mon., Jan. 7** **The Synaxis of St. John the Baptist**
8:30am the Orthros, 9:30am the Divine Liturgy
- Sun., Jan. 13** **Sunday after Epiphany**
8:45am the Orthros, 10:00am the Divine Liturgy
Stewardship Sunday
- Thurs., Jan. 17** **St. Anthony The Great**
8:30am the Orthros, 9:30am the Divine Liturgy
- Friday, Jan. 18** **St. Athanasius & Cyril of Alexandria**
8:30am the Orthros, 9:30am the Divine Liturgy
- Sun., Jan. 20** **12th Sunday of Luke**
8:45am the Orthros, 10:00am the Divine Liturgy
Godparent Sunday
- Frid., Jan. 25** **St. Gregory the Theologian**
8:30am the Orthros, 9:30am the Divine Liturgy
- Sun., Jan. 27** **15th Sunday of Luke**
8:45am the Orthros, 10:00am the Divine Liturgy
- Wed., Jan. 30** **The Three Hierarchs**
8:30am the Orthros, 9:30am the Divine Liturgy
Greek Letters Celebration

ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΚΟΝ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

- Κυρ., 6 Ιαν. ΤΑ ΑΓΙΑ ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ**
8:45π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 10:00π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
Κοπή της Βασιλόπιτας, και εκδήλωση με γεύμα της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας για την Ακαδημία του Αγίου Βασιλείου, Garrison, NY
Αρτοκλασία της οικογενείας Φωτίου Αθανασούλα
- Δευτ., 7 Ιαν. Η Σύναξις του αγίου Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου**
8:30π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 9:30π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
- Κυρ., 13 Ιαν. Κυριακή μετά των Θεοφανείων**
8:45π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 10:00π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή αφιερωμένη στο πρόγραμμα της Ετήσιας Εισφοράς
- Πέμπ., 17 Ιαν. Αγίου Αντωνίου του Μεγάλου**
8:30π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 9:30π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
- Παρ., 18 Ιαν. Αγίου Αθανασίου και Κυρίλλου Πατριαρχών Αλεξανδρείας**
8:30π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 9:30π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
- Κυρ., 20 Ιαν. 12^η Κυριακή του Λουκά**
8:45π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 10:00π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
Κυριακή αφιερωμένη στους αναδόχους
- Παρ., 25 Ιαν. Αγίου Γρηγορίου του Θεολόγου**
8:30π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 9:30π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
- Κυρ., 27 Ιαν. 15^η Κυριακή του Λουκά**
8:45π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 10:00π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
- Τετ., 30 Ιαν. Των Τριών Ιεραρχών**
8:30π.μ. ο Όρθρος, 9:30π.μ. η Θεία Λειτουργία
Εορτή των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Sunday, Jan. 6** **Vasilopita Cutting and Philoptochos Sisterhood luncheon. Proceeds benefit St. Basil Academy Garrison, NY**
@ the Social Hall immediately after the end of the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday, Jan. 13** **Stewardship Program Sunday**
@ the Cathedral
- Sunday, Jan. 13** **Demati Brotherhood Vasilopita Cutting**
@ the Social Hall at the end of the Divine Liturgy
- Sunday, Jan. 20** **Godparent Sunday**
@ the Cathedral
- Sunday, Jan. 27** **Metropolis of New Jersey Greek Letters Celebration**
@ Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington Delaware
@ 4:00pm
- Sunday, Jan. 27** **Philoptochos Meeting, "Ai Myophoroi"**
@ the Philoptochos Room at the end of Divine Liturgy

UPCOMING SACRAMENTS

- Saturday, January 19** **Wedding Sullivan/Carlin 4:00pm**
- Sunday, January 27** **Baptism Mila Andrews 1:30pm**

THE EPISTLE READING

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ., who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own are zealous for good deeds. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Ο ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Τέκνον Τίτε, ἐπεφάνη γὰρ ἡ χάρις τοῦ Θεοῦ ἡ σωτήριος πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις, παιδεύουσα ἡμᾶς ἵνα ἀρνησάμενοι τὴν ἀσέβειαν καὶ τὰς κοσμικὰς ἐπιθυμίας σωφρόνως καὶ δικαίως καὶ εὐσεβῶς ζήσωμεν ἐν τῷ νῦν αἰῶνι, προσδεχόμενοι τὴν μακαρίαν ἐλπίδα καὶ ἐπιφάνειαν τῆς δόξης τοῦ μεγάλου Θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς ἔδωκεν ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν, ἵνα λυτρώσῃται ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀνομίας καὶ καθάρῃ ἑαυτῶ λαὸν περιούσιον, ζηλωτὴν καλῶν ἔργων. ὅτε δὲ ἡ χρηστότης καὶ ἡ φιλάνθρωπία ἐπεφάνη τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων τῶν ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ ὧν ἐποιήσαμεν ἡμεῖς, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὸν αὐτοῦ ἔλεον ἔσωσεν ἡμᾶς διὰ λουτροῦ παλιγγενεσίας καὶ ἀνακαινώσεως Πνεύματος Ἁγίου, οὗ ἐξέχεεν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς πλουσίως διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν, ἵνα δικαιωθέντες τῇ ἐκείνου χάριτι κληρονόμοι γενώμεθα κατ' ἐλπίδα ζωῆς αἰωνίου.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Gospel reading is according to Matthew 3:13-17

At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

ΤΟ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον ἀγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα 3:13-17

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραγίνεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰορδάνην πρὸς τὸν Ἰωάννην τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ. ὁ δὲ Ἰωάννης διεκώλυεν αὐτὸν λέγων· ἐγὼ χρείαν ἔχω ὑπὸ σοῦ βαπτισθῆναι, καὶ σὺ ἔρχῃ πρὸς με; ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· ἄφες ἄρτι· οὕτω γὰρ πρέπον ἐστὶν ἡμῖν πληρῶσαι πᾶσαν δικαιοσύνην· τότε ἀφήσιν αὐτόν· καὶ βαπτισθεὶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀνέβη εὐθὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕδατος· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνεώχθησαν αὐτῷ οἱ οὐρανοί, καὶ εἶδε τὸ Πνεῦμα τοῦ Θεοῦ καταβαῖνον ὡσεὶ περιστερὰν καὶ ἐρχόμενον ἐπὶ αὐτόν· καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν λέγουσα· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα.

Stewardship News

**Stewardship Sunday will be on January 13, 2019.
Please bring your commitment forms and make
your pledge for 2019.**

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what is left after everything else has been taken care of.

Please support our church and make your commitment towards stewardship if you have not done so already. We appreciate your support and your help to promote our ministries.

STEWARDSHIP STATUS AS OF NOVEMBER 2018

Budget Commitment	Total Pledged	Paid to Date	# of Stewards
\$100,000	\$ 76,720.00	\$72,225.00	172

Thank you for signing a 2018 Orthodox Christian Stewardship Commitment Card to support the Ministries of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, in Philadelphia. Your Stewardship provides the foundation for our service in the Lord and has a direct effect on encountering the challenges of the future.

If you haven't signed a Stewardship Commitment Card, please take the time to make your offering today and enable our Church to continue to enhance the spiritual growth of Orthodox Christianity entrusted to our care.

May our Lord richly bless you in all your endeavors.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos Ladies Society of St. George Cathedral in Philadelphia will be meeting every first Wednesday of the month to prepare baked goods. The ladies will be at the Philoptochos Room from **10am to 2pm** and anyone who would like to volunteer is welcome to come. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

*(Με απόφαση της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητος Κυριών του Ιερού Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίου Γεωργίου Φιλαδελφείας, τα μέλη αυτής θα συναντηθούν εφεξής κάθε πρώτη Τετάρτη του μήνα, και περί ώρα **10^η π.μ. έως 2ας μ.μ.**, για την προετοιμασία των ετησίων ζαχαροπλαστικών παρασκευασμάτων. Όσοι και όσες θα ήθελαν να συμμετάσχουν σε αυτή την προσπάθεια της Φιλοπτώχου αδελφότητος είναι ευπρόσδεκτοι, και η βοήθειά τους θα είναι πολύτιμη.)*

The Philoptochos Sisterhood will be cutting on this Sunday, January 6, 2019, day of the Epiphany of our Lord, at the end of the D. Liturgy, the Vasilopita bread, for the New Year. The luncheon will be \$12 and all proceeds from the luncheon will be benefited St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY.

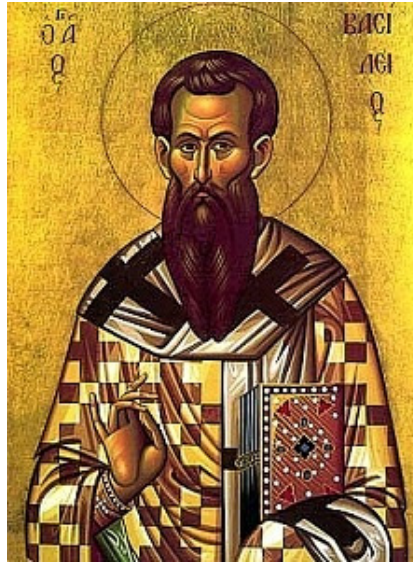
Upcoming meetings of the Philoptochos Sisterhood are as follows:

Sunday, January 27, 2019

Sunday, February 24, 2019

All of them will be held at the end of the Divine Liturgy at the Philoptochos Hall.

THE TRADITION OF THE VASILOPITA



The tradition of baking and cutting a special "pita" (which can mean a loaf of bread, a cake, or even a pie) each year on January 1st is observed in honor of our holy father Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappodocia -- hence its name "Vasilopita" meaning "St. Basil's Bread." This tradition is observed in both parish churches and in the homes of the faithful. What is the meaning of this tradition and how did it begin?

For centuries upon centuries, parents, grandparents and godparents have related the following to Orthodox children about St. Basil and the Vasilopita. One year, during a time of terrible famine, the emperor levied a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors' prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins and pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice upon his flock, St. Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop's staff and the book of the holy Gospels and came to his people's defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God's grace, the emperor did repent! He canceled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to St. Basil all of the chests containing the coins and jewelry which had been paid as taxes by the people of Caesarea. But now St. Basil was faced with the daunting and

impossible task of returning these thousands of coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before the icons of our Master Christ and His All-Holy Mother, St. Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge pita. He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral, and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the pita, giving a piece to each person. Miraculously, each owner received in his piece of Vasilopita his own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop St. Basil the Great! In remembrance of that miracle wrought by God as a result of St. Basil's love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st -- the date on which St. Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379.



In some places the Vasilopita is prepared as a loaf of rich bread (like that used for Artoklasia), while in other places it takes the form of a spicy sheet cake (without frosting). But no matter what form a Vasilopita may take, they all have one thing in common -- each contains a single coin. After placing the bread dough or cake batter in the proper baking pan, the baker makes with the foil-wrapped coin the sign of the Cross over it, closes his/her eyes, and then secretly places it into the unbaked Vasilopita. After the Vasilopita is baked and cooled, it is blessed and cut following Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Basil on January 1st.

SAINT BASIL'S ACADEMY

Institution of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Our Children:

Saint Basil Academy provides a refuge for children whose parents or guardians are unable to care for their children due to illness, death of a parent, chemical addiction, and other problems.

In fulfilling its mission, *Saint Basil Academy* provides a nurturing environment where "neglected" children are buttressed by a support system that allows them to flourish and become meaningful members of society.



"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way." St. Francis of Assisi

Saint Basil Academy provides a beacon of hope and a safe haven for Orthodox children in need by ensuring material, spiritual, and emotional support for the development of the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.

The staff of *Saint Basil Academy* provides the structure that the children need through hours of selfless giving. Through the behavior modification program, the children are taught accountability and responsibility for themselves. *Saint Basil Academy* holds education at the forefront of its mission to serve the children.

Our Mission:

Saint Basil Academy is supported totally through donations. In addition to educating and providing full medical and emotional support for the children, the Academy is entrusted to maintain and upgrade over twenty-five buildings on the grounds which is essential for the safety and well being of the children and staff.



"Let the children come to me..." says our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:14)

Help Give a Child a Future!

He calls the young in need to *Saint Basil Academy*. It is through your financial support and prayers that *Saint Basil Academy* is able to perform the life saving mission of our Lord.

Your gift brings about a dramatic change, a transformation in the tragic, harsh, difficult life of a child. It is an investment in their future. Truly a life saving act that transforms a young life from one of a destitute future to one of a future with choices and hope.

Saint Basil Academy is a 501 C 3 entity and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Make a Difference:

If you would like to become a supporter of *Saint Basil Academy* please feel free to contact us today. We are open to any type of donation that you believe will benefit our organization. Listed below are just a few of the ways you can have an impact on these innocent children's lives.

- Monetary donations for daily operations
- Renovation of buildings
- Supplies for daily living such as clothing, general hygiene products, etc.
- Sponsorship of events such as fund-raisers or children's activities
- Support with music lessons, class trips, school supplies, and any other childcare expenses
- Donate a vehicle for everyday operations
- Donate time spent with children such as recreational and leisure activities or become involved in the tutor programs
- Host a child during the Holidays
- Become a *God Parent*
- Join our *Sponsor a Child* program



***Saint Basil Academy* was founded in 1944 through the vision of the Archbishop Athenagoras, of blessed memory. He went to the National Philoptochos Society who purchased the property. The Archbishop envisioned the Academy as a home and school for orphans and other children of the Greek Orthodox Church who needed a safe place and a Christian home to be raised. Since that time, in addition to being a thriving children's home, the Academy has served as a parochial school, a Teacher's College, and a national retreat center and currently houses the Archdiocese Center for Family Care.**

***Saint Basil Academy* is located in Garrison, New York, sixty miles north of New York City on 250 acres overlooking the majestic Hudson River. Visitors are welcome. For more information, please contact the Director of Development directly at (845) 424-8121.**

Stewards of the Faith

All Things are Possible to the
One Who Believes in Christ



STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

January 13, 2019

When we believe, stewardship follows. Stewardship is faith in action; action motivated by humble gratitude to God for his blessings in our lives.

As Christian Stewards we are called to give back to God from the “first fruits” of our labor. We support our parish and her ministries in an intentional way and not with only what is left after everything else has been taken care of.

Christian Stewardship is... learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others. offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying “I believe...”, as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as Church universal.

Welcome to Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Saint George is an historic Cathedral located in downtown Philadelphia, under the spiritual auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We extend to you a warm and heartfelt Orthodox Christian welcome. Our Greek Orthodox Cathedral is dedicated to imitating the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ by sharing the gospel with our words and living it with our lives. It exists to lead the faithful to the worship of the Holy Trinity according to the Faith and Tradition of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Our witnessing to our Faith is accomplished through the Sacramental life of the Church, its values and traditions, stewardship, fellowship, service, and Christian education.



Published by:

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