



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

www.holyapostlesgreekorthodox.org

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January 7, 2018; Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner



In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church

honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior. Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism. The holy Prophet John was related to the Lord on His mother's side, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. (On Saint John the Baptist, see Mt.3:1-16, 11:1-19, 14:1-12; Mark 1:2-8, 6:14-29; Luke 1:5-25, 39-80, 3:1-20, 7:18-35, 9:7-9; John 1:19-34, 3:22-26). The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.



EPISTLE READING : Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They

said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

GOSPEL READING : The Gospel According to John 1:29-34

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."



Weekday Liturgical Schedule for January 2018

Wed. Jan. 17 St. Anthony the Great 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thur. Jan. 25 St. Gregory the Theologian 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Tues. Jan. 30 The Three Hierarchs 8:15 AM, Orthros. 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thank you to Sofia Kouiroukidis for sponsoring today's coffee hour in honor of her son, Yanni's, Name Day!

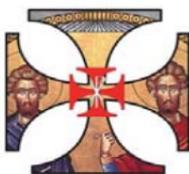
If you would like to sponsor coffee hour in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a Name Day, or provide paper supplies for coffee hour, contact Lia at liaecon@comcast.net.



ANNOUNCEMENTS: January 7, 2018



Greetings from your devoted Stewardship Committee! It's a brand new year and time to fill out your 2018 Stewardship pledge card! Your pledge is critical to the daily health and future of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. Not only does your Stewardship pay our rent and bills, but it allows for future planning and growth. Additionally, parishioners with a pledge and current payment enjoy being members in good standing, with voting rights at events such as General Assemblies and Parish Council elections. If you have any questions or would like to pledge via email, please contact me at ron.baldinger@gmail.com.



PHILOPTOCHOS – We hope to see you at our meeting **TODAY immediately after Liturgy**. Our membership drive also starts in January. We hope to see many new faces join us. Our membership dues are \$50.00. We look forward to a new year filled with many activities, including the Taste of Greece in February. Look for the sign up sheet to help out that weekend.



PAREA (Our Company of Friends!) – With God's grace, our January luncheon will take place on **Tuesday, January 9th, 2018** at 11:30 at OPA! Mezza Grill. Address: 44110 Ashburn Village Boulevard, Ashburn, VA 20147 (Ashburn Village

Center) Tel: 703-729-221. Please RSVP to Marina (703-349-1842).

ΜΟΛΩΝ ΛΑΒΕ



AHEPA Chapter 542 – Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday, January 10th, 7:30-9pm**, at the home of Alex Kangelaris (12650 Thunderchase Drive, Reston 20191). To become a member, apply on our website today, www.ahepa542.org, and subscribe to the online calendar for real time event updates.



HOPE and JOY – The next monthly meeting is **Friday, January 12th** from 6pm to 7:15pm at church.



GOYA – GOYA's next event in January will be Ice Skating and Lunch at Reston Town Center. This annual event has always been a fun one! Keep an eye out for more details about this event and the monthly GOYA meeting.



All our Ministries wish our wonderful parishioners a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year! We thank you all for your continued support of our efforts to serve the Lord, His church and our community.

Sunday School News: New Prayer Partners program The Prayer Partners program pairs students in grades 9th-12th with a Prayer Partner in Pre-K – 6th grade. Prayer partners may work on Sunday School projects together, celebrate various holiday activities together, practice the Orthodox faith together, etc. For further details please talk to Ergini Martnishn (703-652-4426).



It's never too late to join one of our Greek language classes!

For more information about Greek School, Ellinomatheia Program, or Teen and Adult Classes, contact Lia (liaecon@comcast.net) and she will direct you to the appropriate instructor.



Start the New Year off right!

Submit your 2018 Stewardship Pledge Card

**2018 Stewardship Pledge (ALL PLEDGES JANUARY- DECEMBER 2018)
HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

In faith, prayer and sacrifice, my family and I wish to share in the support and work of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. We would like to pledge:

\$_____ for the year 2018 (through December 2018)

You may pay via cash, check or online using PayPal

Annually Semi-annually Quarterly Monthly Weekly Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Your pledge is strictly confidential.