

**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued- Sunday, December 19, 2010**

**Decorations for Christmas**



We are currently accepting donations to help decorate the church for this beautiful season. Please help us out by contributing whatever you can. Thank you!

**Philoptochos News**

- **Holiday Bread-**  
Time is starting to wind down to sign up for your delicious Holiday bread. Please make sure that you have reserved your loaf! The price is \$7 per loaf and can be paid upon pick up.
- This year we have a larger variety of beautiful things at the Book/Gift Store. We have replenished the stock with lots of children's stocking stuffers, inspirational books, beautiful jewelry, 33-knot prayer ropes (large and small), crosses, Christmas CDs, stationery, icons, and many other items. Come and see how you can finish off your Christmas list and support Transfiguration at the same time!
- Dorothy Smith will be chairing our very first **Live Vasilopita Auction** on January 9th! The auctioneers are practicing their techniques and our bakers are going to provide not only Vasilopita, but other ethnic breads and treats that we have to welcome in the new year. You will not want to miss this event! More details will follow.  
ANYONE interested in baking their specialty item can come to the Philoptochos table and sign up.
- The stockings were hung by the chimney with care.....to be filled with scrip cards to spend in the new year! So many to choose from for family and friends; less we forget perhaps a feast on some hens. HEB, Starbucks, and Wal-Mart too, not much time and so much to do!  
Let Philoptochos help you with your shopping so that you can relax and enjoy corn popping!

Thank you all for your unwavering support.

Merry Christmas to one and all.

May God continue to bless Philoptochos with your love and support giving us the ability to help the needy in 2010.

**Choir Rehearsal**

Sue Stevens is leading choir rehearsal for anyone interested in learning how to chant.

The rehearsals are on Saturdays at 5:15pm before Vespers.

You can contact Sue at [sues@lavoce.us](mailto:sues@lavoce.us) if you have any questions.

**Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:  
Spiropoulos, Stahlke, Stamatis, Stamatopoulos, Stathos**

**Thank you to last week's Luncheon Sponsors:  
Michael & Mary Katherine Bakiris,  
and Tsambika Bakiris**

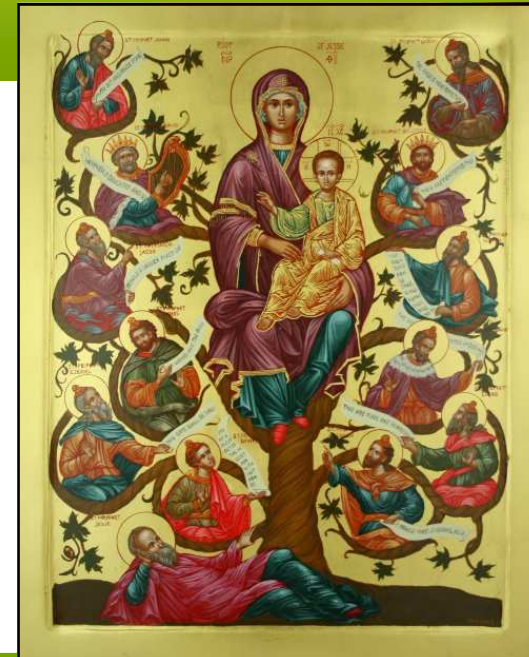
**Next week's Coffee Hour is a "pot-luck" hour!  
Please bring a snack to share after the Liturgy.  
Remember, the fast will be over!**

Today's usher: Elizabeth George

Next week's usher will be: Peter Kangos

SUNDAY BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 19, 2010

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE  
NATIVITY**



**TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD**

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

ORTHROS 8:45AM; DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

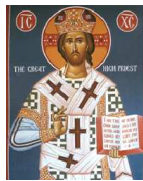
Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

DECEMBER 19, 2010 - SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

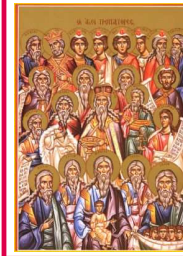
EPISTLE - HEBREWS II: 9-10, 32-40

Brethren, by faith he sojourned in the land of the promise, as in a foreign land, having dwelt in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the joint-heirs of the same promise; for he was waiting for the city which hath the foundations of which the artificer and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For the time will fail me narrating about Gideon and Barak and also Samson and Jephthae, and about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith struggled against kingdoms, wrought righteousness, attained to promises, stopped mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edges of the sword, were empowered out of weakness, became strong in battle, turned back encampments of aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection. And others were tortured, not accepting release, that they might attain a better resurrection. And others received trial of mockings and of scourgings, and, moreover, of bonds and of imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted; they died, murdered by the sword. They went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being in need, afflicted, ill-treated— of whom the world was not worthy. They were made to wander in deserts, and in mountains, and in caves, and in the holes of the earth. And these all, having been approved by testimony through faith, received not for themselves the promise, God having foreseen some better thing concerning us, that they should not be made perfect without us.



Πίστει παρώκησεν εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σικηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαβὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοῦ νεκροῦ αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.



Sunday of the Forefathers

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.



Boniface the Merciful of Tarsus

This Saint, who lived during the reign of Diocletian, was the servant of a certain Roman woman of senatorial rank named Aglais. Mistress and servant lived together in an unlawful union, and Boniface was moreover given to drunkenness and riotous living. Nevertheless, he was generous to the poor, hospitable to strangers, and compassionate to those in misfortune. At last, Aglais, moved at hearing the accounts of the Martyrs, and believing in the power of their intercessions to obtain the mercy of God, sent Boniface to Tarsus to obtain relics of holy Martyrs. Before he departed, he asked her in jest, "And what if they bring back my body as holy relics?" He then set out with some of his fellow slaves for Cilicia, where the Saints were contesting in martyrdom. As he went among the Martyrs and encouraged them in their pains he was arrested by the ruler and confessed Christ with boldness, and suffered death as a martyr in the year 290. Thus what he had said in jest to his mistress was fulfilled when he himself was brought back to her as sacred relics by his fellow servants. Saint Aglais devoted the remainder, of her life to prayer and works of virtue, and reposed in sanctity. Saint Boniface is especially invoked for help against the passion of drinking.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Sunday, December 19, 2010

There are no Sunday School classes today. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 2nd

Youth Caroling Today!

All youth of Transfiguration are invited to go Christmas caroling today at 12:00 to the Querencia at Barton Creek Retirement Community. If you would like to go, meet us in the foyer at noon. We will return to the church for some snacks and fellowship.

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)

Fr. Vasileios is leading the ladies in a discussion of Elder Paisius' newest book *Spiritual Awakening*. Next class is Tuesday, December 21, from 9:30 to 11:30. - hope to see you there!

Men's Fellowship

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm at Mt. Tabor Hall

Holy Water Bottles

The Feast of Holy Theophany is quickly approaching. If you have any empty Holy Water bottles at home or your office, please return them to the church office as soon as possible. Let's recycle!

## Nativity Service Schedule

*Celebrating the Nativity of our Lord*

**Friday, December 24**

*9:00am - Matins*

*10:00am - Royal Hours*

*6:00pm - Vespers Liturgy*

**Saturday, December 25**

*Orthros - 9:00am*

*Divine Liturgy - 10:00am*

**Sunday, December 26, 2010**

*8:45 am - Orthros; 10:00am - Liturgy*

**Friday, December 31, 2010**

*Circumcision of our Lord & the Feast of St. Basil:  
5:00pm - Orthros; 6:00pm - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil*

**Sunday, January 2, 2011**

*8:45 am - Orthros; 10:00am - Liturgy*

**Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011**

*Forefeast of the Epiphany \*strict fast\*:  
Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 6:00pm  
Blessing of the Waters*

**Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011**

*Great Feast of the Theophany:  
9:00am - Orthros; 10:00am - Divine Liturgy; Blessing of the Waters  
Diving for the Cross will be held at Barton Springs pool in Zilker Park  
immediately following the Liturgy*

**Friday, Jan. 7, 2011**

*Synaxis of St. John the Baptist:  
8:00am - Orthros; 9:00am - Divine Liturgy*

*DECEMBER 19, 2010 - SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY*

*GOSPEL - MATTHEW 1: 1-25*

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

## *HYMNS FOR TODAY*

### **Resurrection Hymn (1st Plagal 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(s) for the Preparation of the Nativity**

*“Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden has opened unto all.  
Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life has blossomed forth  
in the cave from the holy Virgin. Her womb has proved a true spiritual Paradise,  
wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live,  
and shall not die as did Adam.*

*For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.”*

*“Great are achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest,  
the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep.  
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.”*

### **Hymn for Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

*“Metemorforthis en to ori, Christe o Theos, dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou,  
kathos I dynando Lampson ke imin tis amarto lis to fos Sou to aidion,  
presvies tis Theotokou Fotodoto doxa Si.”*

*“When O Christ our God Thou wast Transfigured on the mountain  
Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy disciples in proportion as they could bear it.  
Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O  
Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.”*

### **Kontakion**

*“I Parthénos símeron ton proeónion Lógon, en spiléo érhete apotkín aporrítos.  
Hóreve, I ikouméni, akoutisthísa; dóxason metá Angélon ke ton Piménon,  
voulithénta epofthine, pedíon néon, ton pro eónon Theón.”*

*“On this day the Virgin comes to the cave to give birth to God the Word ineffably,  
Who was before all the ages. Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing the gladsome tidings;  
with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him  
Who is willing to be gazed on as a young Child Who before the ages is God.”*

### **WELCOME VISITORS!**

*We welcome all new visitors who worshipped with us this morning.  
Please join us next door after service for coffee and fellowship.  
There is material in the entrance of the church regarding ministries and events  
of our community. Please sign our guest book!*

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### **Receiving Holy Communion**

*The sacrament of Holy Communion is reserved for only baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by fasting, prayer and confession. The Orthodox Church is not in sacramental communion with any other church outside the Orthodox Christian Faith. If you would like information about the Orthodox Church and becoming an Orthodox Christian, please see Father Vasileios after services.*

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### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH**

*Dolly, Betty, Arlena, Sophie, Archie, Lou, Thomas, Kathy, Suzanne, Pat, Steve, Nina, Phyllis, Katheryn, Panayioti, Anna, Margaret, Sami, Ibrahim, Mary, George, Susan, Matthew, Ellen, Gary, Katina, Nelda, Nick, Elaine, Fotini, Malone, Tracy, Richard, Lilly, Kimberly, Dion, Jamil, Dimitrios, Lisa, Maggie, Mindy, Joan, Nakis, Estela, Micky, Kiane, Lari, Ed, Sally, Mariana, Brian, Kaeley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Konstandinos, Angela, Jennifer, Rose Marie, Elia, Bilyana, Maria, Mai Oy, Susan, Mara, Xenophon, Jane, Romeo, Clara, Lucia, Dina*

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### **40 DAY BLESSING**

*CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. KATHY VALLERAN ON THE CHURCHING  
OF THEIR BABY DAUGHTER, SOPHIA*

### **CHRISMATIONS**

*THE SERVICE OF CHRISMATION TODAY IS FOR  
PAMELA KAY MINNICK (PANAYOTA). HER SPONSOR IS DIANA ANGELO.  
AND FOR JASON THOMAS YEDIARES (IASONNAS). HIS SPONSOR IS XENOPHON NIKAS.*

### **GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!**

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### **THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22: PARACLESIS AT 6:00PM**

**SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE NATIVITY SCHEDULE**