

# SUNDAY AFTER 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

### WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued- Sunday, December 26, 2010

#### Philoptochos News

- Dorothy Smith will be chairing our very first **Live Vasilopita Auction** on January 9th! This is going to be an “International Treat Event”! Our bakers are going to provide not only Vasilopita, but other ethnic breads and treats that their family has to welcome in the new year. The auctioneers are practicing their techniques and you will not want to miss this event! It is going to be a lot of fun! ANYONE interested in baking their specialty item can come to the Philoptochos table and sign up.
- Don't forget the scrip cards! Purchasing the various grocery, department store, Restaurant and movie gift cards from Philoptochos will help out Transfiguration as well as the various charities that Philoptochos donates to; so please remember us before you go shopping. Right now we have HEB, Starbucks, Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, Macy's, Old Navy/Gap/Banana Republic and Barnes & Noble cards. Look at the Great Lakes Scrip website (shopwithscrip.com) to see all of the cards that are available to you. Let us know and we can have the ones that you would like in one week!
- Ladies' Night Out.....February 4th! Watch for more information!

#### 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 everyone who contributed to today's coffee hour!**

*Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:  
Spiropoulos, Stahlke, Stamatias, Stamatopoulos,  
Stathos*

*Next week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:  
Suehs, Suehs, Terzi, Thanos, Tindle*

*Today's usher: Peter Kangos*

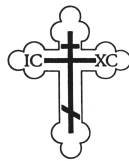
*Next week's usher will be: Nick Spiropoulos*

*DECEMBER 26, 2010 - SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY*

*EPISTLE - GALATIANS I: 11 - 19*

Brethren, I make known to you, brethren, the Gospel which was preached as good tidings by me, that it is not according to man; for I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but by a revelation of Jesus Christ. For ye heard of my manner of life at one time in Judaism, that according to excess, I used to persecute the Church of God, and was ravaging her. And I kept on advancing in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in mine own race, being more exceedingly a zealot of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, Who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I be preaching Him as good tidings among the nations, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood, neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and again returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Peter, and remained with him fifteen days; but of the other apostles I saw none, except Iakovos the brother of the Lord.

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπὸ ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ διὰ ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ. Ἦκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθὼς ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνήλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνήλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἰστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.



**WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Sunday, December 26, 2010**

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

**GOYA LUNCHEON**

GOYA will be sponsoring the monthly luncheon on **Sunday, January 9** to help raise funds for the students attending the 2011 Metropolis Basketball Tournament in Oklahoma City on Jan. 14 - 17

Many thanks to Crissi Gianakopoulos and Cynthia Price who are planning a scrumptious spaghetti lunch with all the trimmings including salad, bread and dessert!

**The many different expenses for this event add up quickly!**

**Please support your youth and plan to attend this luncheon with a generous heart!**

**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, January 11, 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**

**Vasilopita Auction**

With the beginning of every new year, comes the celebration of a new beginning and the wish that the year be blessed with health, happiness, love and the protection of God. Vasilopita is a sweet tsourekis (or cake, depending on the local traditional recipe) to remind us that the presence of the Lord makes our lives sweet—

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!"  
(Psalm 34:8)—and easy, "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Mt. 11:30.)

Our Philoptochos is planning a **live Vasilopita Auction** on January 9th!

Read more about it in the Philoptochos news and plan to attend this very fun event...and bring your wallets!

**Holy Water Bottles**

The Feast of Holy Theophany is quickly approaching.

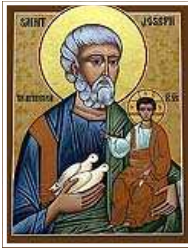
If you have any empty Holy Water bottles at home or your office, please return them to the church office as soon as possible. Let's recycle!

**House Blessings**

Father Vasileios will begin our house blessings after the feast of Theophany on Jan. 6th.

**Call the church office to set your appointment to have your home blessed.**

**If you have recently had your home blessed by Father, you do not need to schedule another one.**



## Holy Righteous Joseph the Betrothed along with David the King

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the twenty-sixth of this month, we make commemoration of Saints Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin; David, the Prophet and King; and James, the Brother of God. When there is no Sunday within this period, we celebrate this commemoration on the 26th.

Saint Joseph (whose name means "one who increases") was the son of Jacob, and the son-in-law - and hence, as it were, the son - of Eli (who was also called Eliakim or Joachim), who was the father of Mary the Virgin (Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23). He was of

the tribe of Judah, of the family of David, an inhabitant of Nazareth, a carpenter by Trade, and advanced in age when, by God's good will, he was betrothed to the Virgin, that he might minister to the great mystery of God's dispensation in the flesh by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her husband so that she, being a virgin, would not suffer reproach when she was found to be with child. Joseph had been married before his betrothal to our Lady; they who are called Jesus' "brethren and sisters" (Matt. 13:55-56) are the children of Joseph by his first marriage. From Scripture, we know that Saint Joseph lived at least until the Twelfth year after the birth of Christ (Luke 2:41-52); according to the tradition of the Fathers, he reposed before the beginning of the public ministry of Christ.



The child of God and ancestor of God, David, the great Prophet after Moses, sprang from the tribe of Judah. He was the son of Jesse, and was born in Bethlehem (whence it is called the City of David), in the year 1085 before Christ. While yet a youth, at the command of God he was anointed secretly by the Prophet Samuel to be the second King of the Israelites, while Saul - who had already been deprived of divine grace - was yet living. In the thirtieth year of his life, when Saul had been slain in battle, David was raised to the dignity of King, first, by his own tribe, and then by all the Israelite people, and he reigned for forty years. Having lived seventy years, he reposed in 1015 before Christ, having proclaimed beforehand that his son Solomon was to be the successor to the throne.

The sacred history has recorded not only the grace of the Spirit that dwelt in him from his youth, his heroic exploits in war, and his great piety towards God, but also his transgressions and failings as a man. Yet his repentance was greater than his transgressions, and his love for God fervent and exemplary; so highly did God honour this man, that when his son Solomon sinned, the Lord told him that He would not rend the kingdom in his lifetime "for David thy father's sake" (III Kings 12:12). Of The Kings of Israel, Jesus the Son of Sirach testifies, "All, except David and Hezekias and Josias, were defective" (Ecclus. 49:4). The name David means "beloved."

His melodious Psalter is the foundation of all the services of the Church; there is not one service that is not filled with Psalms and psalmic verses. It was the means whereby old Israel praised God, and was used by the Apostles and the Lord Himself. It is so imbued with the spirit of prayer that the monastic fathers of all ages have used it as their trainer and teacher for their inner life of converse with God. Besides eloquently portraying every state and emotion of the soul before her Maker, the Psalter is filled with prophecies of the coming of Christ. It foretells His Incarnation, "He bowed the heavens and came down" (Psalm 17:9), His Baptism in the Jordan, "The waters saw Thee, O God, The waters saw Thee and were afraid" (76:15), His Crucifixion in its details, "They have pierced My hands and My feet .... They have parted My garments amongst themselves, and for My vesture have they cast lots" (21:16, 18). "For My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink" (68:26), His descent into Hades, "For Thou wilt not abandon My soul in Hades, nor wilt Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption" (15:10) and Resurrection, "Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered" (67:1). His Ascension, "God is gone up in jubilation" (46:5), and so forth.

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GOSPEL - MATTHEW 2: 13 - 23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ἄναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων, Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβεν τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου· ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος, Ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνείλεν πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὄροις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκριβώσεν παρὰ τῶν μάγων. Τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος, Φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμὰ ἠκούσθη, κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμὸς πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσὶν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγυπτῶ λέγων, Ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ, τεθνήκασιν γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβεν τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. Ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ Ἡρώδου ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἔλθων κατῴκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

## *HYMNS FOR TODAY*

### *Nativity Hymn*

*“Your birth 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, Worship You the Sun of Righteousness and came to know You the Light from on high. Glory to You O Lord.”*

*“I Génnisis sou Hristé o Theós imón, anétilo to kósmo, to fos to tis gnóseos;  
en aftí gar i tis ástris latrévontes, ipó astéros edidáskonto;  
Se proskinún, ton Ilion tis dikeosínis, ke se ginóskin ex ípsous Anatólín. Kírie dóxa si.”*

### *Resurrection Hymn (2nd Plagal Tone)*

*“When the angelic powers appeared at your tomb and those who guarded You became as though dead, and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch You came unto the virgin woman, bestowing the gift of life O You who rose from the dead. Lord we give glory to You.*

### *Hymn for Saint Joseph*

*“O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou has seen a Virgin great with child; thou has given glory with shepherds; thou has worshipped with the Magi; and thou has been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.”*

### *Nativity Kontakion*

*“On this day the Virgin beareth the Transcendent in essence; to the Unapproachable, the earth doth offer a small cave; Angels join in choir with shepherds in giving glory; with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; for our sakes is born a young Child, He that existed before the ages is God.”*

*I Parthénos símeron, ton Iperóuson tíkti, ke i gi to Spíleon, to aprosító prosági.  
A`ngeli, metá Piménon doxologoúsi, Mági de, metá astéros odiporoúsi;  
di imás gar egenníthi pedíon néon, o pro eónon Theós.*

### *Trisagion Hymn*

*“Those who have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ for evermore Alleluia.”  
“Osis Christon evaptisthite Christon enethisathe Alleluia.”*

### *Megalynarion*

*“Magi and Shepherds came to worship the Messiah Who was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Being well content, out of fear to be silent would be easier, since silence hath no danger; O Virgin it is hard to compose hymns with love framed in harmony, but we pray thee, O Mother: do thou grant us strength as great as is our volition.”*

### *Nativity Communion Hymn*

*“The Lord has sent redemption unto His people. Alleluia.”  
“Litrosin apestile Kirios to lao to lao aftu. Alleluia.”*

### *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!*

### *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.*

### *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, Xenophon, Jane, Romeo, Clara, Dina*

### *MEMORY ETERNAL*

*THE MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY IS FOR:  
ROBERT EAGLE (JUDY EAGLE'S HUSBAND)  
IAKOVOS KARIOTIS (SHELLEY EBELING'S FATHER)  
ANDONI KARIOTIS (SHELLEY EBELING'S BROTHER)*

### *THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE*

*MONDAY, DEC. 27: FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN  
8:00AM -ORTHROS; 9:00AM -LITURGY*

*FRIDAY, DEC. 31: CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD & ST. BASIL THE GREAT  
5:00PM -ORTHROS; 6:00PM - LITURGY*