

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued- Sunday, January 2, 2011

Philoptochos News

- Happy New Year everyone! Philoptochos will try to do even more than we did last year with our support for those who are in need. Please let us know if there is someone who you know in our community that could use our help.
- Happy Birthday to our January birthday girls: Angie Burks- Jan.5, Anita Jones- Jan. 17, Liz Strong- Jan.12
- Wouldn't it be great if this year we could help Santa out by purchasing a brand new appliance for our kitchen? Something that we could move into our newly renovated kitchen. We could really be like Santa's helpers! All of us...yes, you know how this could happen...**by buying scrip cards!** Yes!! If just 10 of us would buy a \$100 HEB card for our weekly groceries every Sunday during the new year, we would have over \$1000.00! *But surely we would have more than 10 people who can buy groceries weekly using scrip cards.* Wouldn't it be great to be able to purchase a beautiful new appliance? Stop by our table and get this week's cards. We also have: Macy's, Starbucks, Barnes & Noble, Panera's, Old Navy and Home Depot that give us even more of a percentage than HEB does.
- Our bookstore has many beautiful books available as well as items for weddings and baptisms. We also have children's items. Stop by and take a look!

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 Water Bottles

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!

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 if you have any questions.

**Thank you to today's Coffee Hour Sponsors:
Suehs, Suehs, Terzi, Thanos, Tindle**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and helped with the set up and clean up of last week's coffee hour!

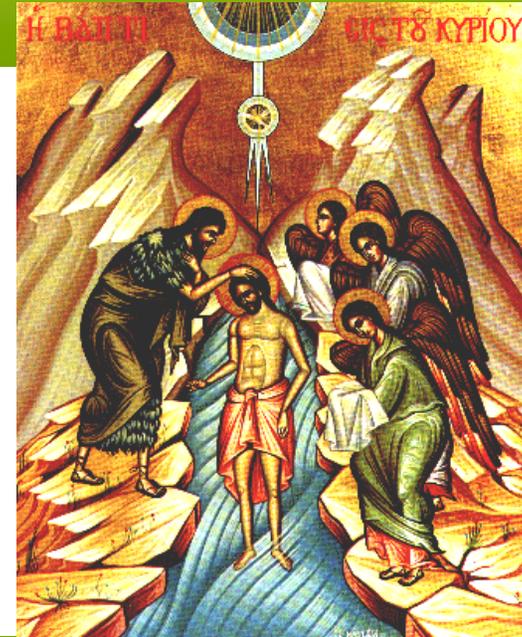
**Next week's Luncheon Sponsors:
GOYA fundraising luncheon for the basketball tournament**

Today's usher: Nick Spiropoulos

Next week's usher will be: Stuart Yoder

**SUNDAY BULLETIN
JANUARY 2, 2011**

**SUNDAY BEFORE
THEOPHANY**



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

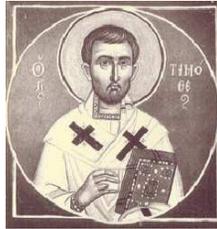
(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

Timothy, my son, be watchful in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry. For I already am being made a drink-offering and the time of my release is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall render to me in that day; and not only to me, but to all who have loved His appearing.



Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτὴς· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Sunday School classes resume today!

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 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 3rd 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!

Attention Bakers!

As you know, Philoptochos is beginning a new way of providing Prosfhora for our Liturgies. It is really important to have fresh loaves for our Communion.

Diana Angelo is creating a baking schedule for us.

We still need Prosfhora for these dates:

Sundays January 16, 23, and 30. and for these weekday services:

- Wednesday evening, January 5, Eve of Theophany;
 - * Friday, January 7, Feast of St. John the Baptist;
 - * Monday January 17, Feast of St. Anthony;
- * Tuesday, January 18, Feast of St. Athanasios; and
 - * Tuesday, January 25, Feast of St. Gregory.

Please contact Diana or stop by the Philoptochos table to sign up to bake.

We will have baking classes soon if you would like to learn how to bake Prosfhora!

St Sylvester the Pope of Rome
(celebrated on January 2)

Saint Sylvester, Bishop of Rome (314-335) was born at Rome of Christian parents named Rufinus and Justa. His father soon died, and the saint remained in the care of his mother. Sylvester's teacher, the presbyter Quirinus, gave him a fine education and raised him as a true Christian.

When he was an adult, Sylvester fulfilled the Lord's command to love one's neighbor. He often received strangers and travelers, serving them like a slave in his own home. During a persecution against Christians, Sylvester did not hesitate to take in the holy confessor Bishop Timothy of Antioch, who dwelt with him for more than a year, and who converted many to Christ by his preaching.

Bishop Timothy was arrested and executed on orders of the Prefect Tarquinius. Sylvester secretly took the body of the saint and buried it. This came to the attention of Tarquinius, and the saint was arrested and brought to trial. Tarquinius demanded that he renounce Christ, threatening him with torture and death. St Sylvester was however not intimidated, and he remained steadfast in his confession of faith, and was then thrown into prison. When Tarquinius suddenly died after the trial, the saint was set free and fearlessly he evangelized the pagans, converting many to Christianity.

At thirty years of age St Sylvester was ordained as a deacon, and then presbyter, by Bishop Marcellinus (296-304). After the death of Bishop Miltiades (or Melchiodorus, 311-314), St Sylvester was chosen Bishop of Rome. He encouraged his flock to live in a righteous manner, and he insisted that priests strictly fulfill their duty, and not be involved with secular businesses.

St Sylvester became renowned as an expert on Holy Scripture and as a staunch defender of the Christian Faith. During the reign of the emperor St Constantine the Great, when the period of persecution had ended for the Church, the Jews arranged a public debate to determine which faith was true. St Constantine and his mother, the holy Empress Helen, were present together with a large crowd.

St Sylvester spoke for the Christians, and the Jews had one hundred and twenty learned rabbis led by Zambres, a magician and sorcerer. Quoting the sacred books of the Old Testament, St Sylvester convincingly demonstrated that all the prophets foretold the birth of Jesus Christ from the all-pure Virgin, and also His voluntary suffering and death for the redemption of the fallen race of mankind, and His glorious Resurrection.

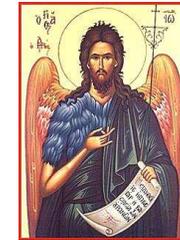
The saint was declared the victor in the debate. Then Zambres tried to resort to sorcery, but the saint obstructed the evil by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Zambres and the other Jews came to believe in Jesus Christ, and they asked to be baptized.

St Sylvester guided the Roman Church for more than twenty years, earning the esteem of his flock. He died peacefully in old age in the year 335.

JANUARY 2, 2011 - SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

GOSPEL - MARK I: 1 - 8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρῦσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

HYMNS FOR TODAY

Resurrection Hymn (Baris Tone)

*“O Lord by Your sacred Cross You abolished death,
and granted unto the thief blessed paradise.
The Myrrh bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy.
The apostles did preach the Good News at Your command,
that You had risen from the dead O Christ Our God,
bestowing mercy upon the world evermore.”*

Hymn for the Forefeast of Theophany

*“Be thou ready Zabulon; prepare thyself. O Nephthalim. River Jordan,
stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master,
Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother,
Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared,
now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared,
for He truly willeth to renew all creation.”*

Hymn for the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

*“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.”*

*“Metemorfothis en to ori, Christe o Theos,
dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou, kathos i dynando
Lampson ke imin tis amartolis to fos Sou to aidion,
presvies tis Theotokou Fotodota doxa Si.”*

Kontakion

*“In the running waters of the Jordan River,
on this day the Lord of all crieth to John:
Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me,
for I am come to save Adam,
the first-formed man.”*

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 faith outside
the Orthodox Christian Church. If you are not Orthodox, you are invited with every-
one to receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the end of service. If you would like
information about the Orthodox Church and becoming an Orthodox Christian,
please see Father Vasileios after services.*

**Please allow the Church School children and teachers to go to Holy Communion first
so they can leave for their classes. All others should wait until the ushers dismiss you
by rows to receive Communion.**

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, Costa*

THIS WEEK'S SERVICE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5: FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY
VESPERAL LITURGY - 6:00PM
BLESSING OF THE WATERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6: HOLY THEOPHANY
ORTHROS - 9:00AM; LITURGY - 10:00AM
BLESSING OF THE WATERS

DIVING FOR THE CROSS AT BARTON SPRINGS AT 1:30PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7: SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
ORTHROS - 8:00AM; LITURGY - 9:00AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8: GREAT VESPERS - 6:00PM