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*A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America • Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America
His Grace Bishop ANTHONY, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo*

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TONE 6

JANUARY 7, 2018

EOTHINON 9

SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

NEW-MARTYR ATHANASIOS OF ATTALIA • VENERABLE BRANNOCK OF BRAUNTON



The site at the Jordan River where John was baptizing, where he heard the Father's voice and saw the Spirit descend and remain on Jesus.

LITURGY VARIATIONS

FIRST ANTIPHON (PSALM 113.1, 2, 3, 5 LXX)

When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

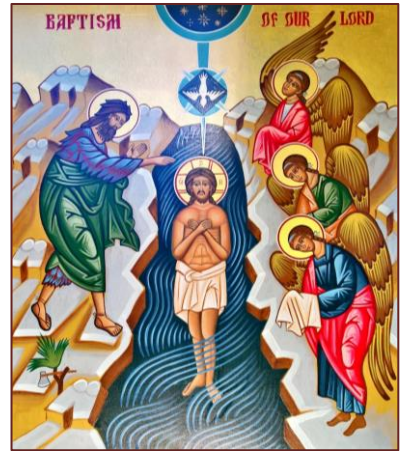
Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Judah was His sanctuary, and Israel His dominion. **Refrain**

The sea saw it and fled: Jordan was driven back. **Refrain**

What aileth thee, O Sea, that thou fleest? O Jordan, that thou turnest back? **Refrain**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Refrain**



Schedule of Regular Weekly Services

Sundays: Matins, 8:50 AM
Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Wednesdays: Vespers, 6:30 PM

Saturdays: Great Vespers, 5 PM

Confession: After Saturday Vespers
During Sunday Matins
Or by Appointment



**Remember to turn
cell phones off!**

See Calendar for Feast Days and Other Weekday Services Scheduled

Order for Holy Communion

Members of the Orthodox Church age seven and above must prepare for Holy Communion with a recent confession, prayer, fasting from all food and drink from midnight (unless medical condition preclude it), being in church *before* the Epistle and Gospel readings, and being at peace with everyone.

As there are **NO CHURCH SCHOOL** classes today, children should sit with their parents and come to Communion with them. An usher will dismiss your row from the center aisle. Then return to your place by a side aisle for the prayers of thanksgiving and the final blessing and dismissal. Please let choir members pass when they come down for Communion.

A Warm Welcome to Our Guests

We are glad you are worshipping with us. Please note that participation in **Holy Communion is limited to members of the Orthodox Church** in good standing, who have prepared with prayer, fasting and confession.

For all others: though we cannot share Communion with you—since it is an expression of membership and full unity in faith—you are welcome to come forward after the dismissal, receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread (from the large bowls). Please also sign our guest book, and introduce yourself to Fr. Nabil during the coffee hour. You may inquire with him how you can become a member.

SECOND ANTIPHON (PSALM 114.1, 2, 3, 5 LXX)

I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications.

Refrain: O Son of God, *Who wast baptized by John in the Jordan*, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia.

He has inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live. **Refrain**

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hades took hold of me: I found trouble and sorrow, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. **Refrain**

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous, and our God is Merciful. **Refrain**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. O only-begotten Son....

THIRD ANTIPHON (PSALM 117.1, 2, 3, 4 LXX): TROPARION OF THEOPHANY AS REFRAIN (TONE 1)

O give thanks to the Lord for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.

Refrain: When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ, our God, Who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Let the house of Israel now confess that He is Good: for His mercy endureth forever. **Refrain**

Let the house of Aaron now confess that He is Good: for His mercy endureth forever. **Refrain**

Let them that fear the Lord now confess that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. **Refrain**

ENTRANCE HYMN

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. O Son of God, *Who art risen from the dead*, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia.

APOLYTIKIA AFTER THE ENTRANCE

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 6)

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb, and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou

ledest Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee calling Thee His Beloved Son,

and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared an enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Synaxis of John the Baptist (Tone 2)

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner. You were shown in truth to be the most honorable of the prophets, for you were deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of

the Jordan Him whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, you proclaimed to those in hell God who appeared in the flesh, who takes away the sin of the world, and grants us great mercy.

Troparion of St. George (Tone 4; Byzantine)

Liberator of captives, Defender of the poor, the Physician of the sick and the Champion of kings, O Trophy-bearer, Great-martyr

George, intercede with Christ our God that our souls be saved.

Kontakion of the Theophany (Tone 4)

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise

and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light unapproachable.

IN PLACE OF THE TRISAGION HYMN

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Prokeimenon (Psalm 63.11, 1; Tone 7)

The righteous shall be glad in the Lord and shall hope in Him.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God, with I pray unto Thee: deliver my soul from fear of the enemy.

Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (19.1-8; Synaxis of John the Baptist)

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.

Holy Gospel according to St. John (1.1-8; 1.29-34; Synaxis of John the Baptist)

AND IT CAME TO PASS: The next day 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."

HOLY OBLATIONS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- By Hani and Manal Sharaya, for the repose of mother Zakiya Sharaya (40-day memorial).
- By the Abraham family of Grand Rapids, for the health of Ron and Loni Freeman on their Chrismation into the Holy Orthodox Church.
- By Sophia Lisa Thomas, for the health of Julia Moran Martz, and for the repose of Peter Martz.

MEGALYNARION OF THE SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (TONE 2)

Magnify, O my soul, her who is more honorable than the hosts on high, the most pure Virgin Theotokos. O most pure Bride, O blessed Mother, the wonders of thy birthgiving pass all understanding. Through thee we have obtained salvation in all things, and, as is right and meet, we rejoice before thee, our Benefactor, bearing as gift a song of thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN REFRAINS (TONE 8)

For the Synaxis (Psalm 111.6-7): The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance; he shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia.

For the Feast (Titus 2.11): The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men hath appeared. Alleluia

POST-COMMUNION: TROPARION OF THE THEOPHANY (TONE 1)

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee calling Thee His Beloved Son, and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared an enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Please Pick up Announcements as You Exit

In accordance with a directive from Metropolitan Joseph, we are now separating announcements and liturgical material into separate bulletins.

The ushers will hand you the announcements bulletin as you exit via the north (side) doors of the nave, following the dismissal and verbal announcements.

THE SYNAXARION

On January 7 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; and Venerable Brannock of Braunton. On this day, we celebrate the Synaxis (Gathering) of the holy and glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John. On the same day is also commemorated the translation of his most precious and holy right hand unto the city of Constantinople.

Verses

How shall this tongue of mine now praise thee, O Preacher, Whom Christ's tongue calleth greater than all the earthborn? The famous Forerunner's memorial is the lot of the seventh.

Because John's main role in his life was played out on the day of Theophany (Epiphany), the Church from earliest times dedicated the "day after" to his memory. Among the Gospel personalities who surround the Savior, John the Baptist occupies a totally unique place by his roles in baptizing the Messiah and in baptizing people for repentance. John prepared

himself in the wilderness of the desert for 30 years for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people. John was of such moral purity that, in truth, he could be called an angel (messenger) as Holy Scripture calls him rather than a mortal man. 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, the Baptist 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. John differs from all other prophets especially in that he had that privilege of being able, with his hand, to show the world Him about Whom he prophesied. As the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord—whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets—John concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. He bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. 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 at the Savior's Baptism. By the intercessions of Thy Forerunner, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

WORDS OF WISDOM

And one day, God will grant us to know His perfect love which drives out all fear. Then a different kind of fear is born – the fear of offending against the holiness of divine love. We will then be able to say with St Anthony, 'I no longer fear God but love Him.' And, as St Silouan observed, 'he said this because his soul was flooded with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Who testifies to this love, and then it is impossible for the soul to speak otherwise.'

From *Remember Thy First Love* - the theology of Saint Sophrony

Destroy within you the devil's rule over you; destroy all his influence over you; acquire spiritual freedom. The foundation for your struggle is the grace of holy baptism; your weapon is the prayer of Jesus.

Ignatius Brianchaninov

Fight therefore, and do not spare yourself the pain; for from the toil in overcoming and doing violence to your evil inclinations, and from the suffering that the war against sinful habits necessitates, you shall gain the victory, and win the exceedingly great reward, and therewith purchase for yourself the kingdom of Heaven, and the everlasting union of your soul with God.

Lorenzo Scupoli

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please include in your daily prayers the following—those struggling with acute illness and those newly departed this life—from our parishioners and those for whom they have requested our prayers. (Names are kept for 40 days, the date indicated after the name, and may be renewed upon request of the patient/family.)

LIVING

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John
Elias Al Tawil, St. Vincent Hosp., 2/16
Robert Abraham, Carmel Care Rehab., 2/15
Amal Khazal, 1/25
George Corey, 1/16
Nicholas Rick Gann, 1/16
George Nimri, 1/14
Anthony Khal, 1/14
Donna Byers, friend of Kathleen Everhart, 2/10
Alexander Azar I, Alexander II's father, 2/2
Christy Morris, cousin of Thomas Kiritsis, 1/28
All those suffering from illness, violence or want throughout the world

DEPARTED

Peter Martz, friend of Lisa Thomas, 2/14
Valentina Mereuta, Ludmila Woodward's aunt, 2/3
David Mouck, our construction project manager, 2/1
Iyad Bannourah, brother of Riyad, Imad and Nihad, 1/15
Ragheda Rabie, former parishioner, 1/14
Zakiya Sharaya, mother of Hani and Rami, 1/13
Georgiy Butenko, husband of Domnikya Butenko in Ukraine, 1/10
All victims of violence throughout the world

ST. GEORGE PARISH CALENDAR

January 2018

Sun. 7	Matins , 8:50 am Choir practice , 9 am Divine Liturgy , 10 am • Ladies of St. George meeting
Wed. 10	Vespers , 6:30 pm
Thu. 11	Choir practice , 7 pm
Sat. 13	Great Vespers and confessions, 5 pm • Chili Cook-off family evening (by Knights of St. George)
Sun. 14	Matins , 8:50 am Choir practice , 9 am Divine Liturgy , 10 am • Church School classes
Tue. 16	Parish Council , 7 pm
Wed. 17	<i>Feast of St. Anthony the Great</i> Divine Liturgy , 10 am Vespers , 6:30 pm
Sat. 20	Great Vespers and confessions, 5 pm
Sun. 21	Matins , 8:50 am Choir practice , 9 am Divine Liturgy , 10 am • Church School classes
Wed. 24	Vespers , 6:30 pm
Thu. 25	Choir practice , 7 pm
Sat. 27	Great Vespers and confessions, 5 pm • Family Night : Dinner and Guest Speaker (by Ladies of St. George)

See the full calendar and the latest additions and updates at www.stgindy.org/calendar