

## SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

January 3, 2020

**Saints Commemorated today:** Malachi the Prophet; Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea; Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Righteous Genevieve of Paris; Righteous Peter Atroas; Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker and Righteous Thomas of Lesbos

### EPISTLE READING

II Timothy 4:5-8

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

### GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, '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 was baptizing 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."

### ENTRANCE HYMN: PLAGAL OF THE FIRST MODE

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit and from a Virgin was born for our Salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend to the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

### FOURTH MODE

As the first-called of the Apostles, and brother of their leader O Andrew, entreat the Master of all that peace be granted unto the world and great mercy to our souls.



### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

On behalf of the Parish Council and the Saint Andrew Stewardship team, we'd like to extend a very big and heartfelt **Thank You! to all the committed stewards / caretakers of our church** who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure to sustain our parish. Without your sacrificial stewardship offerings, Saint Andrew could not exist for our families, and the families of our families and the generations to come. Remember that the parish has no other income to support its annual operating budget of \$360,000 - not from the government, the metropolis, the archdiocese, Greece nor even the SAREF Endowment fund, which is strictly allocated and very tightly controlled to be used for future capital improvements ONLY when it reaches a certain balance, which it hasn't as of yet. To pay the bills day in and day out, we rely on the giving of our 158 attending households.

**During this holiday season we just want to say THANK YOU for all you do to fulfill your fair share of this proposition.** May your Christmas be blessed, safe, healthy and joyful, and may the new year shine brightly for all of us.

### **PHILANTHROPY AT ST. ANDREW - UPDATE**

**Virtual Bake Sale** : Thank you to everyone who supported our first virtual bake sale. We brought in a very respectable income, and it was mostly due to Chris Kurtis donating 45 pastichios. We extend a very heartfelt Thank You! To Chris, and wish many blessings to him and his beautiful family. Now we can once again push forward with philanthropy on behalf of Saint Andrew, for our parish and our local community while also supporting the Metropolis and National commitments to which we are committed.

**Donation for community funeral expenses:** In keeping with our new community giving program, we have contributed to the request for help with funeral expenses, appearing on the local news, requested by the families of the two teenagers who were so tragically killed in a car accident involving their car and a police chase. You can read the details in the link below. We contributed \$100 for each teenager's funeral, with checks being written and sent directly to the funeral homes.

[https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/publicsafety/families-look-for-help-to-pay-for-funerals-of-mishawaka-teens-killed-in-crash/article\\_f7d9c9fa-389e-11eb-b798-b7ba71d5cce8.html](https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/publicsafety/families-look-for-help-to-pay-for-funerals-of-mishawaka-teens-killed-in-crash/article_f7d9c9fa-389e-11eb-b798-b7ba71d5cce8.html)

**Operation Classroom:** Our major new initiative for 2021 will be to engage with the national Philoptochos initiative called Operation Classroom. It is basically a humanitarian outreach to under-funded schools who need help with classroom essentials and other school related projects. Our initial thinking is to reach out to the South Bend School Corporation and see what school could use our help. If any of you have input toward this effort, please let us know (what school to help, ideas for specific help, offers to participate, etc etc). See the details of this program in the link: <https://www.philoptochos.org/operation-classroom/> Finally, we wish each and every one of you in our Saint Andrew family, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Joyful New Year. And we pray 2021 will be kinder and gentler to all of us! :-)

### **PROSFORO COMMITTEE**

**We are in NEED of parishioners willing to join the Prosforo Committee.** If needed, we will do an instructional class for anyone who would like to join but is not sure how to prepare the Prosforo.

**Generally it means making the Prosforo for four Sundays during the year (2 every six months) and occasionally making extra for weekday Liturgies. The more who sign up the less often each individual will need to cover a Sunday. Please contact the office if you are able to volunteer. Thank you.** Jesus is the Bread of Life Who offers Himself for our salvation. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you have no life in you; he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:53-54).

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

The Discretionary Fund is to assist families that face financial crisis, students that need financial aid, single moms, philanthropic institutions in this city and overseas, people with catastrophic illnesses, and missions for the Archdiocese, etc. Thank you for your support. If you would like to help please contact Father George or make donations payable to the Discretionary Fund.

### **CHURCH ETIQUETTE**

There should be NO talking in the Narthex during the Divine Liturgy. (No one should be congregating in the hallways or Fellowship Hall). It is completely disrespectful to God and to the worship service of our Church.

Please remember to dress appropriately and modestly for church services. There is no chewing gum, talking or crossing your legs in church. Everyone should arrive on time for the Liturgy. Do not leave trash (bulletins, paper, etc) in the pews. It is considered disrespectful for anyone attending Orthodox Christian

services to cross their legs during service, chew gum or come in late. Also women who are planning on taking Communion should not wear lipstick or should remove it before going up for Communion.

**TURN OFF CELL PHONES.** Thank you.

### **A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS**

People of different religious affiliation or tradition who behave in a respectful manner are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church but **ONLY MEMBERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH who share a common faith and practice a specific spiritual discipline may participate in the Church's sacraments and receive Holy Communion at the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. The Greek Orthodox Church has a closed communion and no intercommunion with any other Christian body.** We are blessed by your presence with us and thank you for your understanding. May God bless you always.

### **REQUEST FOR TRANSFERRING PARISHIONERS**

We are blessed to welcome new parishioners to Saint Andrews. We ask that you pick up a welcome packet from the table in the Fellowship Hall. You should call the office and schedule an appointment with Father prior to beginning to receive the Sacraments. *We also ask transferring parishioners to follow the Uniform Parish Regulations, Art 18, Sec 2: "A parishioner wishing to move from one Parish to another must present a letter of transfer from the Priest of the Parish from which he or she is moving stating that he or she is in good standing."*

### **ORTHODOXY**

Many believe that Orthodoxy is one of the many "churches" around. Namely one viewpoint of Christianity, or others believe that Orthodoxy is a religion. Both these viewpoints are absolutely false. Orthodoxy basically means true glory or true faith. She is not one of the "churches" because she is the **only** true Church of Christ. This naturally is not pride but the **truth**. Since the Lord instituted only one Church, how can we speak of many? Moreover, Orthodox cannot be called a religion because a religion is superstition, it (every religion) tries to cover the psychological needs of man. In contrast Orthodoxy heals the spiritually ailing man (meaning every man) and renders him holy, this being the tangible obvious proof of her truth.

"The Orthodox Christian Church is evangelical but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It is not denominational, it is pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended and died for the Faith of the Apostles since the Day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago." *Our Life in Christ*

### **REMINDER FOR PARENTS**

For the convenience of parents, for those times when the little ones get a bit restless, a "cry room" is located off the Narthex for your use. **The children of our parish are a blessing and we wish to foster this attitude while still respecting the Liturgy.** THANK YOU!

### **YOUR PRAYERS HELP...**

"...I was sick and you visited Me..." St. Matthew 25:36. "Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants." The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, recovering at home or ill at home/hospital: Lynn Whittenberger (home), and Nick Limberopoulos (home).

In nursing homes or home bound: Andrew Manos (home), Artemis Hoke (Westgate Garden), and Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton).

Today's **Ushers** are: Manolis Anagnostou, Leon Andrews, Kurt Metros, Nick Giannakakis A. If you are not serving in the pangari today, you should join everyone in the Sanctuary. Thank you.

Today's **Epistle Lesson** will be read by **an Altar Boy**.

**Cindy Crawford** prepared the Prosforo for this morning. May our God grant you spiritual joy always.

## THIS WEEK

### Note changes in services times:

Fri, Jan. 1	St. Basil the Great and Circumcision of our Lord
Office closed	8:30am Orthros
	9:30 Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
	<b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Sat, Jan. 2	Great Vespers 5:00pm <b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Sun, Jan. 3	Sunday before Theophany
	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy

## LOOKING AHEAD

Tue, Jan. 5	Eve of Theophany
	8:30am Royal Hours, Great Vespers, Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters
	<b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Wed, Jan. 6	Theophany
	8:30am Orthros,
	9:30am Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters
	<b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Thu, Jan. 7	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
	<b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Sat, Jan 9	Great Vespers 5pm <b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Sun, Jan. 10	Sunday after Theophany
	8:30am Orthros
	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Sat, Jan 16	Great Vespers 5pm <b>(Higher risk parishioners encouraged to attend this service)</b>
Sun, Jan 17	Twelfth Sunday of Luke
	8:30am Orthros
	9:30 Divine Liturgy