The Feast of Theophany-Epiphany: Its Transformative Power in the Modern World
Fr. Athanasios Nenes

The Feast of Theophany-Epiphany is a momentous occasion in Christian Orthodox tradition. Celebrated on January 6th, it represents the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River and the manifestation of the Holy Trinity to the world. This feast holds great significance as it resonates with the challenges and opportunities we face in the modern world. In this article, we will explore how the Feast of Theophany-Epiphany affects our lives, offering powerful insights and guidance in navigating the complexities of our contemporary society.

Renewal through Baptism
The baptism of Jesus at the Jordan River serves as a symbol of spiritual renewal. The Feast of Theophany-Epiphany reminds us of our own baptism and calls us to continually renew our commitment to a life devoted to Christ. In the modern world, where we often face distractions, disillusionment, and spiritual complacency, this feast encourages us to recenter our lives on our baptismal promises. It urges us to seek a renewed relationship with God, allowing His transformative grace to shape our thoughts, actions, and relationships.

Reconciliation and Healing
Theophany-Epiphany also reveals God’s desire for reconciliation and healing. As Jesus emerged from the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Trinity was present, signifying the unity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In our fragmented and divided world, this feast calls us to pursue reconciliation and unity. It challenges us to transcend societal divisions, embracing the transformative power of forgiveness and healing in our relationships. By imitating Christ, we become agents of change, promoting peace and justice in an increasingly polarized world.

Encountering the Divine
Theophany-Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the Holy Trinity to humanity. It invites us to encounter the divine presence in our lives and to deepen our relationship with God. In the modern world, where secularism and materialism often cloud our spiritual vision, this feast serves as a reminder that our ultimate fulfillment lies in communion with the divine. It prompts us to seek moments of silence, prayer, and contemplation, allowing the transformative presence of God to permeate our hearts and guide our decisions.

Proclaiming the Gospel
The Feast of Theophany-Epiphany empowers us to boldly proclaim the Gospel in the modern world. Just as John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of Christ, this feast encourages us to bear witness to the transformative power of Christ’s message. It challenges us to engage with our communities, sharing the good news of hope, love, and redemption. In a world hungering for meaning and purpose, Epiphany compels us to live out our faith authentically, being living examples of Christ’s teachings.

The Feast of Theophany-Epiphany offers profound insights and transformative power in the modern world. Through its celebration, we are called to personal renewal, reconciliation, encountering the divine presence, and proclaiming the Gospel. By embracing these values, we can navigate the challenges of our contemporary society with faith, purpose, and renewed hope. As we continue to celebrate this feast, may it shape our lives and inspire us to be agents of transformative change, bringing light and love to the world around us.
The Mission of the Taxiarchae/Archangels Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey toward the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Archangel’s Call is published on the first of each month. The deadline for submissions to this newsletter is the tenth of the prior month.

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Visit Our Taxiarchae Website
www.goarchangels.com
Our site is updated every week!

Please let us know if you prefer to receive your monthly bulletin through email, rather than hard copy. Please email Cynthia Alex at cindialex1@gmail.com to let us know your preference. Thank you!
The Parish Council will take the Oath of Office at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 7. The elected individuals are John Abate, Bill Alex, Harry Berlis and Harry Chehames and Frances Levas. Our deepest gratitude to all of our Parish Council Members, past and present, for their many years of dedicated service to our church.

Please support our Capital Improvement Campaign Fund. Your donations are greatly needed in order for us to move forward with more needed improvements of our church.

Remember that it is through Stewardship that we sustain the budget of our Church. We all need to support our Church with our time, our talents and our treasures. Please make and fulfill your pledges for the new year 2024. Thanks for your support. Please see the pledge form on page 4.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

George Faggas, Parish Council President

Costa Magimbi, our chanter, is available to assist and guide parishioners who are having problems navigating the Massachusetts Social Services system. You can meet with Costa on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy to set up an appointment.

All are warmly invited to join the Bible Study Group which meets via zoom every week on Monday evening at 8 PM. With the participation of Father Nenes, and facilitated by Dr. Nicholas S. Racheotes, we engage in lively, thoughtful, and uplifting discussions of Holy Scripture in what always proves to be a fast-moving hour. Beginning on Monday, January 8, we shall be continuing our focus on the Birth of Christ as understood by the fathers and other religious thinkers of our Orthodox faith. This is a precious opportunity for us to add to the devotion of the season. On behalf of the group, we would like to wish everyone in the Archangels family the blessings of Christmas and happiness in the New Year.

Choir Notes

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of our Christmas Concert! Our dedicated singers rehearsed for more than three months to present this beautiful program, and I can’t thank them enough! Thank you also to the ladies of Philoptochos who so graciously hosted and prepared the reception for after the concert. Most of all, I want to thank all of our faithful parishioners who came to the concert and showered us with kind words of encouragement and praise. It was a beautiful afternoon! Και τον γρόνο! Please see our photo collage on page 5.

The HELPING HANDS MINISTRY’S sole purpose is to make the lives of our Parishioners easier in view of the restrictions many are facing today. The services we offer are: RX pickup/drug store, Postal needs, Grocery shopping. If you know someone from our church who may need these services, please contact Georgia (Jody) Bitsikas by email gbtsikas@aol.com or by calling 617-653-2461.

Costa Magimbi

SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTRY

UPDATE: To date we have raised $29,000 of the $150,000 we need for much needed improvements to our church. We used approved monies from the operations account for the parking lot improvement, but we need to reimburse that account once we have raised the funds.

Thank you to those who have donated! To make your donation, visit the church website, www.goarchangels.com, click on DONATE, then select CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN FUND from the drop-down menu, or mail a check to the church office. We appreciate your support.

PHILOPTIMO CHAT GROUP

Men and women are welcome! Get creative, make connections!

3rd Thursday of the month
Thursday, January 18
10 AM to Noon

PHILOPTIMO CHAT GROUP

Linger over coffee and Linda’s donuts
Join a friendly group!

TOPIC:
SHARE YOUR LIFE-TIME STORIES

Please join us—men and women.
Bring a friend!
Our group is growing!
We hope to see you!
There was a man who took a shovel into his backyard each day to dig up a box containing money that he had buried in the ground. Every day he would look at it, count it, and then bury it again.

One day he dug in the usual spot and found that his box and the money were gone. He let out a cry, which brought his neighbor to ask what was the matter. Upon hearing what had happened, the neighbor asked, “What’s all the fuss? You weren’t using it anyway. Maybe the person who has it now will use it to do good!”

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Parable of the Talents, in which a man leaving on a long journey called three of his servants and entrusted to each a certain sum of money measured in talents. To one he gave five, to another he gave two and to the third, he gave one talent. Upon his return, the man called his servants to give account for the money with which he had entrusted them. The first two, by wise use of the money had doubled the amount they had received. To these he praised with the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

The third servant, who had received one talent, out of fear, had buried the talent in the ground. Upon his return, the man called him a “wicked and lazy servant,” and taking away the one talent, he gave it to the servant who had ten.

Jesus gave this parable for us to consider the gifts that God has given us. Although we all receive different gifts, there is no difference in God’s reward for what we accomplish with them. If you want to be a faithful servant, then take whatever you have and offer it faithfully to the Lord. It is not about how much ability you have, it is what you do with it.

The gifts we receive are to be multiplied. They are not to be buried in the ground. About this, Saint Gregory the Great wrote: “The gifts we receive are to be multiplied. They are not to be what you have, it is what you do with it.”

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In the time of Jesus, a talent referred to substantial amount of money. The message to us today is that God gives each of us something of considerable value and expects good stewardship and a return on what He has given. Although Jesus speaks to us about money in the Parable of the Talents, He is really talking about something far more important.
Dear Parish family,

Χρόνια Πολλά και Καλή Χρονιά! Happy New Year! I pray that 2024 brings God’s blessings to each and every one of you, and peace to our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

We gathered together on Sunday, December 10, as we shared a beautiful lunch with our church family. I wish to thank our Ahepans with whom we jointly hosted this event. Thank you to Pam Abate and Pam Kondylis and the crew who spearheaded the luncheon. Kai tou xronou!

Thank you to all the donors of the Christmas Card. These funds allow us to assist people in need. THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to all who attended the Wreath decorating evening. It was so nice to be together in one room, enjoying each other’s company and catching up! We had over 40 people attending. It was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. We look forward to many more events like this in 2024.

Sunday, January 14 is Vasilopita Sunday! Please make every effort to attend. The Philoptochos Board will be supplying all the Vasilopites for the day! Let’s welcome 2024 together as a church family.

If you have any event ideas kindly let us know. We are always looking for new and different ways to get together and raise some funds. We will begin planning some more events and hope that you will be joining us.

Our membership drive is on, please consider becoming a member and making a difference.

May the New Year bring our families health, joy, faith, kindness, compassion, prosperity, laughter, hope, success and love.

Ευτυχισμένος ο Καινούργιος Χρόνος 2024! With sisterly love, Fotoula Kopellas

Chapter of the Good Samaritan – Member of the National Ladies Philoptochos Society

Christmas Wreath Decorating
Please let us know if a brother is sick or in need.

President: John Abate 617.797.9499/617.484.5946
Secretary: Charles Pentikis 781.893.1264
Treasurer: Demetri Tsekrekas 617.257.7474
Making Gingerbread Houses

Our JOY!

Making Christmas Ornaments

Making Koulourakia

Our Children...

Children’s Christmas Pageant

Making Christmas Ornaments

Making Gingerbread Houses

Pizza, a treat and hot chocolate will be provided. We will also have a seasonal craft.

You must RSVP to Ckourkouis@goarchangels.org by January 5th to ensure participation and availability.

FAMILY MINISTRIES
A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT
SLIME PARTY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH 6-8 PM
PIZZA AND A TREAT WILL BE PROVIDED
YOU MUST RSVP TO Ckourkouis@goarchangels.org BY JANUARY 19TH TO ENSURE PARTICIPATION AND AVAILABILITY.
At the Pageant our Greek and Sunday School children gave a great performance this past Christmas season and we are all proud of them. January, the start of the new year, is full of expectations for renewal and learning. At Greek School we will continue to teach with renewed passion. We will be getting ready for more feast celebrations to present to you.

Thank you to all who baked for the bake sale—it was a great success!

The Greek School Program for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs will take place on Sunday, February 4, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Please come and share with us our pride in our Greek School students.

Agni Charalambous Thurner, Director
Phone: 617/610-9369
Email: athurner@goarchangels.com

Outreach Ministries

A happy and healthy 2024 to all! JOY would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Toy Drive, which benefited the Watertown Food Pantry. JOY would also like to thank our parish’s generous donations of warm winter coats for Coats for Kids. We collected 87 coats. We are looking forward to making these events annual traditions.

The needs of the Watertown Food Pantry continue. We are grateful for your generosity with the non-perishable food donations! Shown below is a Wish List for the food pantry and for FINEX House. This Wish List is just a guide. The Pantry will take all food, but please be sure to check the expiration date. The Health Dept. will not allow the food pantry to accept any expired items.

God bless you for your support! My sincerest thanks in helping our Outreach Program be so successful. For more info, please contact me at CKourkoulis@goarchangels.org

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Blessed is the way wherein you walk today; for there is prepared for you a place of rest.

Remember in your prayers our brother and sisters who passed from this life...

...on November 27, Christine A. Smerlas
...on December 2, George Vastis
...on December 4, Mark Tripoli
...on December 16, Mary (Georgakes) Ravanis
...on December 18, Stamatina Langadousis

May their memory be eternal.
Άιωνια η μνήμη.

Taxiarchae Hellenic Cultural Center
Planning a party or reception?

Our beautiful function rooms are now updated and ready for any and all of your event needs, up to 500 people. For information and assistance in planning your future events, please call

Irene Apostolou Cobb at the Church Office
at 617-924-8182 or email:
functionmanager@goarchangels.com

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER and ONLINE

For information, please email: office@goarchangels.com

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Email: john.abate2@verizon.net
We ask you to share your talents with our parish. Please contact Father Athanasios Nenes (anenes@goarchangels.com) or any other member of the Parish Council. If you have already paid or committed this year’s Stewardship, we sincerely appreciate your generosity. If you have not yet made your contribution or commitment, we humbly ask for your Stewardship gift this year. For your convenience, you can make your donation via the link to PayPal found on the parish’s website, or by mailing a regular check. May the grace of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you and your loved ones.

2023 STEWARDSHIP (as of December 13) 331 Stewards

If any names have been mistakenly omitted from this list, please notify the church office and we will make corrections in our next bulletin.
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<tr>
<td>Sunday after Epiphany</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Greek School p.9</td>
<td>Eve of EPIPHANY</td>
<td>Greek School p.9</td>
<td>JOY 5-7 PM</td>
<td>Greek School p.9</td>
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<td>Epistle: Acts 19:1-8</td>
<td>8 PM p.3</td>
<td>Paraklesis to Panagia</td>
<td>Eve of EPIPHANY</td>
<td>Great Blessing of the Waters</td>
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<td>Gospel: John 1:29-34</td>
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| 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| Sunday after Epiphany | Bible Study | Philoptimo Chat Group p.3 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |
| Episcopal: Ephesians 4:7-13 | 8 PM p.3 | Via Zoom | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |
| Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 | Via Zoom |       | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |
| Philoptos Vasiliopita Sunday |       |       | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |

| 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| Sunday of Luke | Bible Study | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 | Family Night Slime Party | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |
| Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11 | 8 PM p.3 | NO Paraklesis | Family Night Slime Party | 6-8 pm | Greek School p.9 | Greek School p.9 |
| Gospel: Luke 17:12-19 | Via Zoom |       | 6-8 pm | p.8 |       |       |

| 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
| Sunday of Luke | Three Hierarchs | Sunday Schedule | Greek School |
| Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 | Orhtros Divine Liturgy 8.30 am | Orhtros 8:30, Doxology, Divine Liturgy: 9:30 AM | Greek School: Thu 4:30-6:30 PM, Sat 10 AM-12 PM |
| 15th Sunday of Luke | 8 PM p.3 | Three Hierarchs | Greek School: Thu 4:30-6:30 PM, Sat 10 AM-12 PM |
| English emphasized Liturgy | Via Zoom | Orhtros Milky Liturgy 8.30 am |       |
| Greek School: Thu 4:30-6:30 PM, Sat 10 AM-12 PM |       |       |       |