

Adult Religious Education (Bible Study) - Monday, January 29th @ 7:00 p.m. Come join us and learn about the richness of our faith through Scripture. Bring your bibles. We will be using the Orthodox Study Bible. For more information call (773) 334-4515 and speak to Father John.

Our annual Family Ski outing will be from January 26-28 2018. Make your reservations now to get the group rate! To reserve a room call +1 (866) 636-4502 and book under 'Family Weekend. Please also email Fr Athanasios to RSVP at frathanasios@standreworthodox.org.

St. Andrew's has Graves for Sale @ Elmwood Cemetery, Section 3B and @ Memorial Park at the Cypress Gardens. Please call the church for additional information if you are interested (773) 334-4515.

St. Andrew's Edgewater Food Fest - Saturday, January 20, 2018, 3 – 8pm & Sunday, January 21, 2018, Noon – 3 pm. Come and enjoy delicious Greek Food, Beer, Wine, Pastries & other Greek delicacies. Don't forget the wonderful baklava sundaes. Remember to buy your 50/50 Raffle and sign up to help. Admission is FREE with plenty of parking on the church grounds. Tell your friends and family. For more information see your Winter Anchor.



St. Andrew's Women's Philoptochos Society wishes all of St. Andrew's community a Blessed and Joyous New Year filled with peace, good fortune, and terrific health to all!! Thank you to all who joined in ringing in the New Year on December 31st for the Mimosa Brunch after church services. Anastasia Kafkes and Marilyn Tzakis chaired a lovely brunch, courtesy Nookies, along with delicious pastries baked by both ladies. Diane White posted all the fun pictures from our new annual event on FaceBook, check it out!!

Sunday, December 10th to January 7th: Vasilopita Ticket sales continue. Please see Diane White or stop by the Philoptochos table to buy your \$10.00 ticket. All proceeds will be going to St. Basil's Academy.

Friday, January 19th: Sarah's Circle Making Sack Lunches 10:30 St. Andrew Kitchen, Women helping Women, our monthly outreach program, supporting our local Edgewater women's shelter.

Tuesday, January 30th: Chicago Metropolis Feed the Hungry: Annunciation Cathedral. Each year we need 10-12 volunteers to help serve lunch to the homeless. Also, please bring any gently used larger sized jackets, coats, socks, or sweaters for men and women. Please leave in the office in the bin labeled Feed the Hungry January 30th. Please contact Tia Manolakas if you can help that day.

Super Bowl Squares will be available once final teams are announced!! Get ready sports fans!! All proceeds will go towards the purchase of a USO calling card!!

Saturday, February 3rd: First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen: 1427 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. Philoptochos has supported this Soup Kitchen for years; we have a standing slot the first Saturday of every month from 11:30-12:30; please arrive by 11:15 and stay for the 15-min. clean-up. Please join in this worthwhile activity. High School students are welcome to earn service hours!! Please contact Timi Pappas at timpapa417@yahoo.com if you are able to attend Saturday, Feb. 3rd. Now that is winter in full swing, help is really needed!! www.firstprevevanston.org

Sunday, February 4th: Go Red Sunday: Extended coffee hour in honor of all women and encouraging heart healthy diets and exercise to minimize heart attacks!! Please see Becky Hatzopoulos to coordinate bringing one of your heart healthy dishes for our buffet!! See you there!

Thursday, February 8th: Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30 p.m. President's Room Please join us for our first meeting of the new year; we will be planning for the rest of the year, along with finalizing arrangements for the Glendi. Please bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share. Hope you can join us!!

Saturday, February 10th: Glendi!! Details to follow! Start planning your table now!

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church

"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"

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Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos

Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory

Fr. Athanasios Minetos

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2018 (Sunday Of St. John the Baptist)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE – A New Year; A New Opportunity; A Time To Commit Fully As St. John Committed His Ministry Fully To Christ After His Baptism. Commit To God; Commit To His Church; Commit To Being A Good Steward For 2018. God Asks This Of Us.

TRISAGION

Andriana Sigounis

May Her Memory Be Eternal!

40 DAY BLESSING

Zachary Johnsen

We invite the entire Parish Family to join in prayer as the servant of God, Zachary and his parents, Cara Mullen & Aleck Johnsen present him to God within the church following the fortieth day of his birth. We offer congratulations and prayers that God continue to bless them with health and happiness.

FOR NON-ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS: *We welcome those Christians not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. We do however invite you to receive the blessed bread that is given out to all at the end of service. Thank you for coming and worshiping with us.*

John's Testimony Of Jesus :Jn 1:29-34

Several statements in the Old Testament prophesy that a forerunner would come to prepare the way for the Messiah. As we come to the New Testament, it is affirmed that these prophecies found their fulfillment in a man named John, who was born to a priest named Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth about six months before Jesus was born. Because John was sent by God to baptize the people of Israel so that they might be ready for the coming of the Messiah, he is known as John the Baptizer or John the Baptist, and we need to consider his testimony of Jesus in John 1:29-34.

First, he identified Jesus as the Lamb of God in verse 29. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" Under the Old Covenant law, God required lambs and other animals to be sacrificed. However, these animal sacrifices themselves did not provide forgiveness, "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sin" (Hebrews 10:4). Rather, the primary purpose of these offerings was to point forward to the fact that mankind would be redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Second, he said that Jesus was "Preferred before me" in verses 30-31. "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." When John said that Jesus was "Preferred before me," he meant that He "ranks higher than I." Jesus Himself later said of John, "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11). John was not the Messiah, and he humbly accepted his place in God's scheme as the herald who would announce the Messiah.

Third, he saw the Spirit in verses 32-33. "And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.''" This event occurred at the baptism of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 3:13-17. God had apparently revealed to John that this would happen as a sign that would enable John to know exactly who the Christ would be and so to testify of Him.

Fourth, he called Jesus the Son of God in v. 34. "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." Based on the evidence presented to him, John identified Jesus as God's Son. Others have done the same. Peter confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:17). And God wants us to do so also. But how can we come to know this? We didn't see the Spirit descend on Jesus as John did. We haven't listened to Jesus in person as Peter did. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

What is the importance of John's testimony? Well, consider these questions. Why do we believe that Alexander the Great lived 2,300 years ago, was king of Macedon, and conquered the known world? Why do we believe Julius Caesar lived 2000 years ago, first ruled Gaul, and then crossed back over to Rome? Why do we believe George Washington lived 230 years ago, led the colonial army against the British, and was the first President of this nation? None of us was there, but we accept credible historical evidence. And even though none of us was present when Christ lived on earth, we have credible historical evidence about Him—from many people including John the Baptist. If believe can believe the historians' testimony about Alexander, Julius Caesar, and George Washington, why should we not accept John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus Christ?

Taken from the Expository Files and given by Wayne Walker

EPISTLE READING: **Apostles 19:1-8**

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.

GOSPEL READING: **Mark 1:29-34**

At that time, 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."

UPCOMING SERVICES

Thursday, January 18th, 2018
St. Athanasios

Orthros 9:00 a.m. / Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, January 25th, 2018
St. Gregory the Theologian

Orthros 9:00 a.m. / Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 30th, 2018
The Three Hierarchs

Orthros 9:00 a.m. / Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.