

:: The Life of Christ Within Us ::

By His Eminence Metropolitan Hierotheos of Nafpaktos in Greece

We are at the beginning of the year and we are used to exchanging well wishes, which are always pleasant, hopeful and encouraging. Yet things in peoples' lives do not come as they wish. There are voices today who speak of a difficult year ahead and, of course, there are serious grounds to support this view that there will be difficulties. But a person has to face all the problems of life with an elevated sense of meaning. This should be done particularly by Christians. ...

Christ, after His baptism in the Jordan River and the arrest of John the Forerunner, began His ministry preaching repentance: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"** (Matt. 4:17). This refers to the Gospel reading on the first Sunday after the Baptism of Christ, basically the first Sunday of each new year. This is important because it determines in our lives the course for every new year.

The sacred Gospels, although not a complete biography of Christ, do present a general outline of "what Christ said, did and suffered." As to what He "said" refers to His teachings, and a primary place for this is given to His Sermon on the Mount, as well as His speeches presented in the Gospel of John, which are full of theology. As to what he "did" refers to His miracles, namely the healing of sicknesses, the remission of sins and the raising from the dead. As to what He "suffered" refers to the persecution by the Scribes and Pharisees, and especially His Passion and Crucifixion. Of course, the Gospels describe His Resurrection and Ascension into the heavens as well as the coming of the All-Holy Spirit.

If we notice carefully we will find that these three actions of Christ reveal His divine-human person. That is, Christ preached as a Prophet, worked wonders as a King, and suffered and was crucified as a High Priest. In other words, Christ united in Himself these three categories of people who were in the Old Testament, that of the Prophet, King and High Priest.

~Read the entire message at www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2014/01/the-life-of-christ-within-us.html

Any announcements for the Sunday bulletin? Please submit by Wednesday each week to Fr. Andrew, by email or phone.



St. George Orthodox Church of Spring Valley

211 E. Minnesota St., Spring Valley, IL 61362
Church Office: (815) 664-4540
www.stgeorgeorthodox.org

Pastor: Father Andrew Kishler
frandrew@stgeorgeorthodox.org
773-575-3272 (cell)

January 12, 2014 – The Sunday after Theophany

Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those with her; Martyr Peter Absalom of Palestine;
Virgin-martyr Euthasia; Martyr Mertios of Mauretania

Orthros Morning Prayers, 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
Great Sanctification of the Waters, following Liturgy

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 4):

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: 'Death hath been spoiled! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy!'

Troparion of the Theophany (Tone 1):

By Thy baptism, O Lord, in the River Jordan, worship to the Trinity hath made its appearance; for the voice of the Lord did come forth to Thee with the testimony, naming Thee beloved Son; and the Spirit in the likeness of a dove, confirming the truth of the word. Wherefore, O Thou who didst appear and lighted the world, O Christ, glory to Thee!

St. George is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
The Most Reverend Metropolitan PHILIP, primate
The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org

Kontakion of the Theophany (Tone 4):

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, O Lord, and Thy light hath been shed upon us, who praise Thee with knowledge, saying, "Thou hast come and appeared, O unapproachable Light!"

Gospel Reading at Orthros

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (20:1-10)

On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Epistle and Gospel Readings for the Sunday after Theophany

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:12-17)

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at St. George, consult the calendar on our website, www.stgeorgeorthodox.org.

From Fr. Andrew and Kh. Patty: A big THANK YOU for all of your Christmas cards, greetings and generous gifts! We were truly not expecting such generosity and we deeply appreciate it. We are blessed to be a part of your community, and we hope this is merely the first of many Christmases together!

Today immediately after Liturgy, we will bless the Holy Water. You may all come forward after the service with your containers to take some of the water home with you. (If you did not bring a container today, we have a few extras.)

What do we do with Holy Water? You can drink it, you can sprinkle it on your plants, you can use it at any time to anoint your forehead with the sign of the Cross. In short, think of it as a blessing from God and an extension of our prayers, and you can use it to bless yourself or anything in your home. What we should NOT do with it is pour it down a drain. If you need to dispose of old Holy Water, pour it on your plants or flowers.

A note on home blessings: The Orthodox Church recommends that each home be blessed by a priest with prayer and Holy Water each year. As soon as my family gets settled into our new home in Spring Valley, it will be my great joy to visit all of you, spend time with your families, and bless your homes with the blessing of the Jordan River. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available in the coming weeks. Nothing elaborate is required on your part, and even a meal is not necessary. Feel free to ask if you have any questions.

Two weeks from today, on Sunday, January 26, we will hold our annual Parish General Assembly after the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners of St. George Church should make every effort to attend. We will look at our finances from the past year, a budget for the new year, and the status of our various ministries. Your pastor also plans to share his vision for our church community. Please plan to attend!

Acquire a peaceful spirit, and around you thousands will be saved.

God is a fire that warms and kindles the heart and inward parts. Hence, if we feel in our hearts the cold which comes from the devil—for the devil is cold—let us call on the Lord. He will come to warm our hearts with perfect love, not only for Him but also for our neighbor, and the cold of him who hates the good will flee before the heat of His countenance.

~St. Seraphim of Sarov