

**31st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday After and Afterfeast of Theophany,
Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet,
Forerunner and Baptist John**

January 7th, 2024

Assigned Readings:

Ephesians 4:7-13; Acts 19:1-8
Matthew 4:12-17; John 1:29-34

Saint of the Day:

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint 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 on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, was related to the Lord on His mother's side. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him. Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. 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, Saint John 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. Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome.

Announcements

January Parish Council meeting will be held next week on January 14th, weather permitting of course. Suggestions for our monthly charity are still welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 4th, with an inclement weather back-up date of February 11th.

A signup sheet will be on the candle desk next week for house blessings. I will try to visit everyone's home for a house blessing before the start of Great Lent. If you do not wish to have your house blessed, please tell Fr. Nathan. Also, if you would like your house blessed this week please contact Fr. Nathan.

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir	Joan
Priest John	Vera
Archpriest Michael	Marie
Matushka Gloria	James
Matushka Myra	James
Thom	Dimitrios
Julie	Marie

Upcoming Services:

January 13th – Great Vespers – 6pm

January 14th – Divine Liturgy – 930am.

Contact Information:

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Troparion and Kontakion

Tone 6 – Troparion of the Resurrection

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

Tone 1 – Troparion of the Feast

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee,
and called Thee His beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself//
and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

Tone 2 – Troparion of the Feast

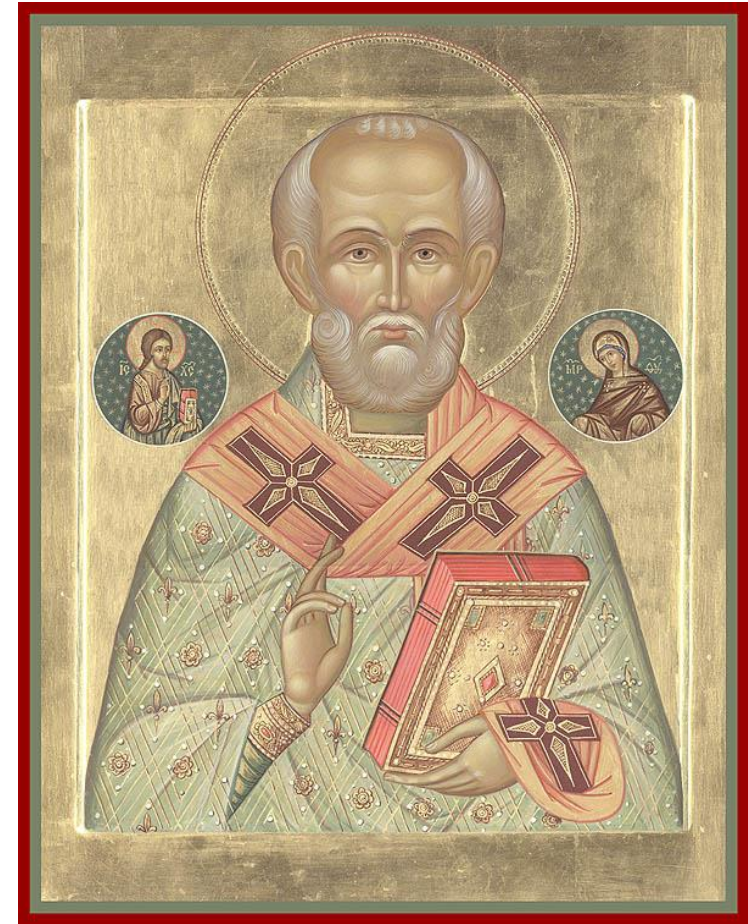
The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise,
but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner.
Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets,
for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan
Him Whom they foretold.
Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy,
thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh,
Who takes away the sin of the world, // and grants us great mercy.

Tone 6 – Kontakion of the Forerunner

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back,
filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh,
while John drew back in awe
as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit.
The ranks of Angels stood amazed
when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream.
And we who were in darkness are filled with light.//
We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

Tone 4 – Kontakion of the Feast

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises:
“Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.”



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Fr. Nathan Clausson – Acting Rector
Fr. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Fr. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Rick Cesari – Parish President