

## Sunday, January 3, 2021

Sunday before Theophany

Malachi the Prophet

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY:** Orthros: 8:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.

The church will be opened to the first 200 parishioners who have phoned into the church this past week and registered to attend worship (please review church protocols). This service will be live streamed and found on our Ss. Constantine and Helen Facebook Page and You Tube Channel.

**HYMNS FOR THE DAY:** (Found in red hymnal book)

# 5 – Τον συναρχον Λογον/The Word who with the Father and Spirit

# 87 – Ετοιμαζου Ζαβουλον/Make ready, Zebulon

# 134 – Του Σταυρου σου τον τυπον/The sign of the Cross in the sky

# 225 – Εν τοις ρειθροις σημερον του Ιορδανου/On this day in the stream of River Jordan

**READINGS:**

**Orthros Gospel:** John 20:11-18.

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 4:5-8.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8.

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or  
The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

**THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER** are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

**PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS:** The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

**COUNCIL DUTY:** Joann Massow & ALL Parish Council members and volunteers.

### MEMORIALS

9 months	Eleni Poulos	9 yrs.	Chryssoula Gregoratos
9 months	Katina Mamounas	15 yrs.	Dionysios Gregoratos
4 yrs.	Barbara Smolinski	18 yrs.	Theodosia Kravas Haniotis
9 yrs.	Dionysios (Dannis) Vossos	38 yrs.	Vasilios (Bill) Haniotis

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

**SERVICE SCHEDULE:** Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – *Eve of Epiphany* – Vespers Liturgy: 6:30 p.m. followed by Agiasmo Service in the Cathedral.

Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – *Theophany of Our Lord* – Orthros: 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. followed by Agiasmo Service in the Cathedral.

**ΘΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΟΝ ΗΜΕΡΟΛΟΓΙΟΝ: Τρίτη, 5 Ιανουαρίου – Παραμονή Των Φωτων –**  
Εσπερινος και Θεια Λειτουργια και Αγιασμος: 6:30 μ.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

**Τεταρτη, 6 Ιανουαρίου – Τα Αγια Θεοφανα Του Κυριου Ημων Ιησου**  
*Χριστου* – Ορθρος: 8:00 π.μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια και Αγιασμος: 9:00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Even though Christmas has past; please do not forget to give your church a Christmas gift. Through your love, the message of Christmas will be heard throughout the year.

**YOUTH MEETINGS:** Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Our HOPE & JOY will meet in the Gold Room, Jr. GOYA will meet in the Cathedral and GOYA will meet in the Great Hall.

**THE APPROACHABLE GOD:** Whenever God appeared to man in the Old Testament, it was a frightening experience. He approached Abraham through heavenly messengers, and He spoke to Moses out of the burning bush. In both cases man was afraid in the presence of God. But centuries later, the angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds on Judean hills and announced, **“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”** (Luke 2:11). While startled at first, those shepherds hastened to Bethlehem. Though they stood in the presence of God, they were not afraid, for God had come to them as a tiny infant. Who could ever be afraid of a baby?

God drew near to man as a little babe, so that man might not be afraid anymore to draw near to God!

**The good news of Christmas is that God in Christ is approachable.**

He was approachable to the Samaritan woman at the well.

He was approachable to the man with the withered hand, the deaf, the lame.

He was approachable to the blind beggar who called out to him from the gutter of a street; to the leper who was afraid to come near Him; to the penitent thief who died next to Him on the cross. Utterly approachable!

**He is approachable today:**

Approachable in our sorrow to dry our tears;

Approachable in death to sustain us with the hope of everlasting life;

Approachable in our weakness to strengthen us with His divine grace;

Approachable in our confusion to guide us to the way, the truth and the life;

Approachable in our sins to grant us a forgiveness that will put a song in our hearts. Utterly approachable!

**THEOPHANY:** On January 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Theophany, also known as the Revealing of God or the Manifestation of the Lord. In the Orthodox Church, this Holy Day has greater significance than the Nativity of Jesus.

St. John Chrysostom said it in this way: *“It is not the day on which our Savior was born that should be called His Manifestation (Revelation) but the day on which He was baptized. He did not make Himself known to EVERYONE by His birth, but by His Baptism. Until the day of His Baptism He was unknown to most people. Therefore, it is not the day on which Christ was born which is called Revelation but rather the day on which he was baptized.”* It was because the people did not know about Him and did not understand who He was that St. John the Baptist said: **“I baptize with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know...”** (John 1:26). Why is it surprising if others did not know when the Baptist himself did not know until that day? (John 1:33).

Many of us know that on January 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the day of Jesus' baptism. We attend the service of the day and receive water (Agiasmo) which has been blessed. We drink this water and bless our homes with it, but the greater meaning of the day eludes us. The greater significance of this time is that Jesus was acknowledged as the Son of God to the general public. The hymn of the day explains this: *“When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, and called You His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ our God Who has revealed Yourself and has enlightened the world: Glory to You!”*

**CHURCH HUMOR:** A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy Father and Mother,” she asked, “is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

**ATTENTION FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF SAINTS  
CONSTANTINE AND HELEN CATHEDRAL**

**OUTLINE OF SAFETY PROTOCOLS  
BEFORE ATTENDING CHURCH**

- The church (or areas used for worship) will be sanitized before each service.
- The church will only be allowed to hold as many people (200) as can maintain social distancing (6 feet distance).
- Due to the limited seating available, every person who is planning on attending worship services will need to register through the church office (219-769-2481) between 11am–1pm, Monday through Friday. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. This will allow us to ensure that we can accommodate everyone. Those who come to church without registering will not be allowed to enter.
- According to the directives of the Metropolis of Chicago, the high-risk population and those caring for them should not attend services. Our parish will be using a system of self-reporting. We will not be verifying your age or medical history at the door.
- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are in the same household as someone positive for COVID-19, or who are feeling sick should not attend services.
- Worship Services will continue to be lived streamed on our Cathedral's Facebook Page and You Tube Channel for those who cannot or may not feel safe to attend.

**COMING TO CHURCH**

- Every person attending worship will need to check in upon arrival at the designated area in the Exo-Narthex. There will be a brief screening process (verbal questions and a temperature check) at the sign-in table.
- Every attendee will need to wear masks (you must provide your own mask) at all times while they are in the physical area of worship, except when receiving Holy Communion. The only exception will children under the age of 2.
- Use non-contact greetings (waving, a bowing of the head) with fellow parishioners instead of the traditional hugging, kissing or shaking of hands. Social distancing must be maintained. No walking about the church proper to greet, talk or visit with one another.

**IN THE CHURCH**

- There will be hand sanitizer stations at the entry of the church, at the candle stands, at the entry into the Nave, and at the Solea.
- There will be no veneration (kissing) of icons, sacred objects, or the priest's hand.
- Parish Council members will distribute candles for the faithful to light, as well as place the 3-hour votives and 5-day red votives in there designated areas of the church. After lighting candles you will be asked to sanitize your hands before entering the Nave of the church.
- No paper bulletins, monthly newsletters or other items will be distributed to those attending worship.
- Due to the need to socially distance, a Parish Council member or a designated usher will escort you to your seat. Please do not insist on sitting in "your spot," as the Parish Council's only concern will be in maintaining social distancing to maximize safety.
- Every other pew will be available for seating with six feet in between each worshiper. People living in the same household can sit together.
- There will be no liturgical books in the pews.
- Holy Communion will be distributed at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The Parish Council will direct people to approach the Chalice and observe social distancing. Sanitize your hands before approaching the Chalice (sanitizer stations will be available on the Solea).

- After receiving Holy Communion, families will depart directly from the side doors and go to their cars to return home. Please do not congregate in the parking lot.
- The church and other worship areas will be sanitized again after services conclude.

**Please remember: It is YOUR CHOICE whether to ATTEND CHURCH or not.  
It is YOUR CHOICE whether to RECEIVE Holy Communion or not.  
DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL of those who do or don't.**

**STEWARDSHIP NOTE:** God did not allow Abraham to sacrifice his son. But God did not hesitate to offer His own Son in sacrifice at Golgotha for our salvation. It was I who deserved to die for I had sinned. Yet He who was sinless died so that I might be spared. What shall my response be to this infinite love of God? Nothing less than my total obedience to God; nothing less than a total self-emptying or self-spending of myself for Christ who emptied Himself for me. Whatever I have: my life, my work, my possessions I shall use not only for self but for God's glory. This, then, is what stewardship is: my personal response to God's love.

If you haven't done so already, please submit your 2021 Stewardship Pledge to the Church today. Also, if you haven't completed your payment for 2020, please do so by January 15<sup>th</sup>. Statements will be mailed out to all that still owe. Help us erase our deficit by meeting your obligation. If you cannot meet your pledge, please contact Fr. Ted at the church office and the matter will be taken care of. Only through everyone's commitment can our Parish continue to grow and minister to the needs of all.

Remember, when making your stewardship offering, either use your envelopes or make sure your name and stewardship number is listed on your payment. This will enable the church office to correctly credit your account.

**EVERY PARISHIONER** of a Greek Orthodox parish, 18 years and older, single or married according to Archdiocese regulations should be a supporting member, a steward, of a parish. Everyone should contribute their fair share to the financial support to their parish. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to "go on record" as being a believer and a supporter of God's work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90% (loss of revenue from worship services, especially Holy Week and Easter, no Annual Summer Greek Fest, no banquet rentals, just to name some). To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Look below and check out the link listed. It is a profession of faith when we all work together and help our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

**SAINT OF THE DAY – MALACHI THE PROPHET:** There are four Major Prophets in the Old Testament and twelve Minor Prophets. Malachi, which means "messenger," was among the twelve and was the last of the prophets of the Old Testament, five hundred years before Jesus. He spoke out at a time when the Jewish nation needed spiritual renewal. They had sunk to the depth of immorality. They believed because of oppression, plagues, famine, pestilence, and drought that God had abandoned them, and they were no longer committed to following His laws. Malachi chastised their spiritual leaders and encouraged the people to forgo their immoral ways. His companion was an angel, with whom he spoke often. Others could hear the angel's voice but not see him. He foretold the coming of John the Baptist, who would be the next prophet in Israel.

**GOD'S WORD:** "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:** Registration for the January Faith Box is now open. Sign up at [tinyurl.com/janfaithbox](http://tinyurl.com/janfaithbox).

Each month, families will have the opportunity to register to receive a box packed with activities, readings, discussion questions and games for the whole family! Families can pick up their box after church on Sunday, at the monthly Youth Night, or during the week and complete the different elements at their own pace. That way, everybody can have a few no-stress, faith-centered family nights each month focused on a particular Christian virtue. Just open the box, and the work is done! Contact Fr. Dimitri if you have any questions.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE:** Along with our usual needs of canned goods, boxed foods, and cleaning items, we are in need of personal hygiene products. Instead of our regular parishioner crew working the food pantry, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. Anyone 18-40 without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** If you haven't looked lately at our Cathedral website, [www.ssconstantineandhelen.org](http://www.ssconstantineandhelen.org), you should. It has had a new makeover and allows the viewer to gather information about our parish as well as Metropolis and Archdiocese ministries and programs at a touch of a finger. We would like to thank Presvytera Kathy Pappas and Fr. Dimitri Burikas for their time and efforts in putting this together for our parish. We still are in need of a webmaster to update and keep our information current. If there is anyone interested in volunteering their time and talent for this ministry, please contact Fr. Dimitri through the church office.

**ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:** If you are planning to move to a new location, or if you have already moved, please inform the church office so that we may change our records. It costs our parish money for every piece of mail that is returned as "Address Change Requested." PLEASE let the church office know of any changes to your address, home or cell phones, email address, etc. Your help in this matter is truly appreciated!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Bible Study will begin again on Zoom starting Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Fr. Dimitri will lead the discussion on the topic of the Gospel according to St. John. Everyone is welcomed to tune in live and review it afterwards on Facebook or You Tube. For specific details, contact Fr. Dimitri.

**THE CUTTING OF THE VASILOPITA** will take place in our parish on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

We invite all those who represent leadership of our societies and organizations, as well as the various ministries and programs of our Cathedral, along with the members of our parish to be available to receive the special slice of Vasilopita and make a donation.

Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Annual Vasilopita Luncheon will not take place. Also, everyone attending worship this day must register with the church office prior to Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:00noon.

**NEW YEAR'S WISHES:** Our Cathedral Clergy, Fr. Ted, Fr. Dimitri, and Fr. Bill, along with the president of the parish council and our entire parish council, offer their prayers and best wishes to everyone in our community of SS. Constantine & Helen and hope that all will have a very peaceful, blessed, healthy, and joyful New Year.

**FOR PONDERING:** And this wine is the living water of which the Gospel speaks. It is the joy of the resurrection becoming consciously ours, and breaching the absurd and the nothingness, making an enclave of non-death in which to leap and dance, as Christ on the fresco of a Byzantine church in Constantinople is dancing and trampling down the gates of hell. – Olivier Clement

**THOUGHT:** He who kneels before God can stand before anybody.