

Thursday, January 5, 2017

*St. Basil Church members exist to BE Disciples,
MAKE Disciples, and GROW Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

“WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT”

by Fr Allan Boyd

“The voice of the Lord upon the waters cries out, saying, ‘Come all of you, receive the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of the awe of God, of Christ who has appeared.’”

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened.”

“That we may be illumined with the Light of Knowledge and Devotion through the descent of the Holy Spirit; let us pray to the Lord!”

“...Light from Light, who came into the world to enlighten it, flood our mind with light by your Holy Spirit..” ~ From the Hymns, Readings & Prayers of the Great Blessing of the Waters

Throughout the services of Theophany, we are constantly calling to mind the fact that God is being revealed to the people present at Christ’s baptism. Also, throughout the services, we continually ask God to reveal Himself to us...that our blindness may be healed; that we may be given wisdom, understanding and awe; that the eyes of our minds and hearts and souls may be illumined...flooded with the heavenly perspective of God’s intimate connection with His creation. To be given such sight—of God revealing Himself to us—is a product of God’s grace.



Why is this sight so important to us? ...because our salvation actually depends upon it. You see, we hope to be so intimately connected with God, to have such an outpouring of His grace in and through our lives, that we will begin to see the all of creation from His eternal perspective...where all things find their sum-fulfillment in Christ. So we begin with water at this Feast of Enlightenment. We ask God to reveal Himself in it. From the very beginning of creation, at Genesis 1:2, there is water. “The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Water is a vital...life-giving part of the earth’s ecosystem...essential to all life. We all know that. But God wants us to see that the life in this element is intimately connected to Him. So we bless water, asking God to open our eyes to His presence in it...seeing that He is ultimately the one who is life-giving...and that water finds its sum-fulfillment in Him. As we come to see His presence in that water, then we bless our Church members with it, hoping that God will open our eyes to the fact that He is being revealed in the persons around us. Then we bless our homes and our cars and our possessions with it, hoping that we will be healed of our everyday blindness and given the sight—the grace of enlightening wisdom, having the eyes of our hearts, minds and souls flooded with

light by the Holy Spirit, so that we will begin to see each of the things we have as intimately connected to God...finding their true purpose in Him.

So, as we bless our homes and our cars and our icons and the various other objects in our life and as we allow ourselves to be blessed by the partaking of this Holy Water, let's ask God for renewal...that by His grace we may begin to see all things around us from the enlightened perspective. Let's ask God to reveal to us how they're intimately connected to Him and how we have been given care over them for His sake...to be used for the building up of His Kingdom.

As we're blessed with this water, may we be given greater sight to see Christ living within us, as the Apostle Paul reminds, "It's no longer I who lives, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). This must become our spiritual condition. We're not just clothed with Christ and the Holy Spirit as an outer garment, but (according to St Photios the Great) our hearts and thoughts and faces must also be filled with the grace of God's light. We must begin to see everything we are and have, filled with and for the sake of His Heavenly Kingdom. This is the way we live in the atmosphere of Theophany, continually, along with the angels and the saints, repeating and confessing together, "we have seen the true Light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true Faith, worshipping the undivided Trinity" (hymn sung after we partake of the Eucharist). Have you seen the true light? Do you see it in the ENTIRE world around you and in everything you own? Do you believe the words of this hymn you've been singing all this time? Since all of us only see God's light through obscured and dim reflections (1 Corinthians 13:12), enter with me into the prayers of Theophany, becoming blessed and blessing our homes, asking God to heal our blindness.

House Blessings

In keeping up with the Tradition of our faith, Fr. Allan is delighted to come to your house to perform a **House Blessings beginning on January 6, 2017** and run till Lent begins on Feb 27th. **Please fill out the form (available on the Secretary's desk) and turn in to Fr. Allan's mail box as quickly as possible.**



✻ **NOTE:** Please don't base the scheduling of your visit on a perceived need to feed Fr. Allan, or give him a stipend, or on whether you feel your house is clean enough. He loves you and just wants you and your house to be blessed. ☩

Sunday's Reading

Click on the link below to read this Sunday's Epistle & Gospel: **Sunday after Epiphany.**

Epistle Reading:

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/lectionary_view?type=E&code=194&event=1161&date=1/8/2017

Gospel Reading:

http://www.goarch.org/chapel/lectionary_view?type=G&code=349&event=1161&date=1/8/2017

For Meditation

Faith consists not only of being baptized in Christ, but also in fulfilling His commandments. Holy Baptism is perfect and gives us perfection, but does not make perfect those who do not follow the commandments. *~St. Mark the Ascetic*

Having been baptized into Christ, and having put on Christ, you have been conformed to the Son of God, for God desires us to be His adopted children and made us to share the likeness of Christ's glorious body. *~ St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

Sunday Service Teams

- **USHER**

January 8: Tony Pettis and John Anhari

Next Sunday: Corina Stancu & Alina Tomescu

- **READER**

January 8: Michael Wilson

Next Sunday: Bill Bernard

- **COFFEE HOUR**

January 1: D + F + G

Next Sunday: P + H + T

- **NOTE:**

- *Coffee Hour teams...*
- *please bring a bottle of Half & Half on Sundays.*
- *please set up & break down tables & chairs.*

**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



- **PROSFORA OFFERING**

January 8: Nitsa Sialaris

Next Sunday: Elsie Saba

- **FLOWER MINISTRY**

January 8: Corina Stancu

Next Sunday: Elsie Saba

Services & Events

- **DIVINE LITURGY & GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS**

TONIGHT, Thursday, January 5 at 7:00 pm for Theophany.

- **DIVINE LITURGY**

On **Saturday, January 7 at 8:30 am** starting with Orthros + Divine Liturgy for St. John the Baptist.

- **THE WHYS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY CLASS**

On **Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm.**

- **DIVINE LITURGY**

On **Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 am** for St. Anthony the Great.

- **DIVINE LITURGY**

On **Wednesday, January 18 at 7:00 am** for Sts. Athanasious & Cyrial.

- **DIVINE LITURGY**

On **Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 am** for St. Gregory the Theologian.

- **TEENS (6TH GRADE & UP)**

Calling all teens to come join us for some fun and entertainment on **Friday, January 27 starting at 6:30 pm.** There will be fun games and fun times... Ping-pong, Board games & Hot Chocolate Bar at Tom Guardino's home. Please RSVP to Krista or Joey Silva.



Teens will begin meeting for an activity on the last Friday of every month.

- **GODPARENT SUNDAY**

MARK THE DATE! Sponsored by Sunday School

On **Sunday,**

January 29 we

will celebrate

Godparent

Sunday. Your

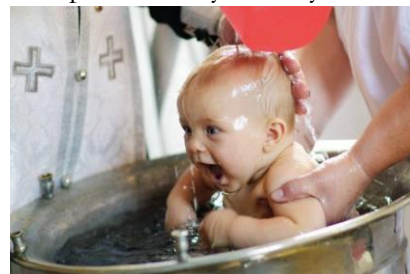
child will receive

more information

through their Sunday School teacher in the next couple of weeks. We encourage families to invite the

Godparents of their children to attend Sunday Liturgy. If a Godparent is unable to be there, we

encourage kids to adopt someone from our parish for the day.



- **DIVINE LITURGY**

On **Monday, January 30 at 7:00 am** for the Three Hierarchs.

- **JOY**



On **Sunday,**

February 5, following

Sunday School, the

kids will meet with

Presvytera Danita in

the hall, where they

will learn how to make

koliva. Kids are encouraged to bring names of departed family members and friends. After we've

made the koliva, Fr Allan will teach the kids about the Church's tradition of memorials. Then we will have

a memorial service together. Parents are welcome to join.

Stewardship 2017

As we come to a close with our 2016 pledges we ask that you begin to consider continuing giving of your time and talents to our parish by filling out the New Stewardship Cards for 2017. They have been printed and made available for us. Offer this tangible sign of love for God and for our beloved Saint Basil parish

Please prayerfully fill out a 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card, to support Saint Basil ministries. As our Lord has blessed each of us so generously...so also be

generous toward Him. Together, “as coworkers with Him,” our beloved parish will thrive, growing in Christ.

Glorify Him!

2017 Calendars

The 2017 St. Basil Calendars may be picked up from the ledge of the Secretary’s desk. Happy New Year!

Ministry Opportunities

- **PARISH COUNCIL OPENING**
Elections will be held **THIS Sunday, January 8.**



We have some slots opening up for parish council representatives. If you are interested in helping our Saint Basil Church grow in Christ, and in His ministry, and in outreach to our neighbors...and are willing to offer your skills, leading this parish to accomplish our Lord’s work, please submit your name to Aristeia Petis; John Anhari; or Karen Ambus. You may also nominate someone else you feel is particularly suited for such leadership.

- **GALA 2017**



SAVE THE DATE and MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 9 at 5:30 pm The Villages.

We currently have an opportunity for one or more persons to offer their skills, planning and implementing the 2017 Saint Basil Gala. This ministry has been vital in helping our parish fulfil its financial obligations. If you, would like to help by serving our parish please contact Annie Agah.

Bookstore

The St. Basil Bookstore is here for your needs. It is stocked with icons and books which will enhance your spiritual growth along with your families and friends. Besides books, we also carry many other Orthodox items such as sensors, vigil lamps, prayer books, prayer ropes to name just a few for both personal or gift-giving purposes. You are encouraged to browse the bookstore after each service or during the secretary's workdays (Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm). Feel free to ask questions. Let us know if you can't find something; maybe we can order it for you.

Prayer Request

Are you sick or will be having surgery? If so, please let the office know and we can include your name on the prayer request list.

Please keep in your prayers:

Maria Anagnostos	Megan Ng
John Anhari	Giovanni Nitis
Samira Bahous	Nicholas Manis
Levi Blain	Voula Papadatos
Elaine Bracket	George Pettis
Maria Davis	Georgia Photopoulos
Andrew Froumis	Paul Rousseve
Philip Gosvener	Mary Sarcone
Otto Hampel	Joanne Smith
Elaine Honjas	Anna Stavaridis
Alyssa Jimenez	Kristos Stavropoulos
Ron Jimenez	Nicholas Steely
Shamiram Joseph	Nicholai Taranin
Lillian Kawar	Thanasis Theologides
Vasso Koffas	Vickie Wilson
Athena Lofaro	Lena Xydes
May Louie	Nectarios
George Nicholas	George Zambos
	Suzanna Zeitler

Bay Area Events

- **BLESSING OF THE WATERS**



On **Saturday, January 14 at 11:00 am** Metropolitan Nikitas, along with Fr. Milutin along with Bay Area

Clergy and parishioners will meet at Rio Del Mar State Beach to perform the Blessing of the Waters... rain or shine. Anyone is also welcomed to dive for the Cross. Join to receive blessings, swim for the cross and enjoy a luncheon reception at the Prophet Elias Church Hall.

• **DINNER FUNDRAISER**

On Saturday, January 14 beginning at 5:00 pm with Vespers, the parish of Ascension Cathedral in Oakland will have a dinner fundraiser to help support The Life-Giving Spring Monastery, Dunlap. Reservations can be made online at <https://www.ascensioncathedral.com/monastery/> or by phone at (510) 531-3400. All costs are covered by sponsors, so 100% of donations will go to the monastery.

• **STS. PETER AND PAUL MISSIONS MINISTRY**

Each January the St. Nicholas Missions Ministry holds a Vasilopita Fellowship with a guest speaker. This year they are most fortunate to have a “double feature” of speakers. They are a couple who serves in the third world and from a young English teacher who is becoming a full time missionary.

Greg and Nan Howland, youthful grandparents will tell us of their years of returning to Haiti to help in medical facilities. Their primary function while there is to train the nurses and care takers in skills of care, procedures and communication with patients.



Ms. Jennifer Rice is a young missionary preparing to serve in Guatemala for two years. She has been there on short term mission trips and feels called to a long-time commitment. She is a

graduate of the Master of Theological Studies program at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology and, completed coursework at the Boston Theological Institute in Missions and Ecumenism. Jennifer also holds a MS degree from Drexel University, a teaching credential and a BA in Studio

art. Most recently, she has been teaching English at the high school level.

Plan to attend the vasilopita cutting, inspiring speakers, and a buffet of special treats. Bring a friend! If you have a schedule conflict checks can be made out to Sts. Peter and Paul Missions Ministry with OCMC in memo and mailed to c/o St. Nicholas Church 986 Chapman St., San Jose, CA 95126.

WHEN? January 21, 2017 from 2-5 PM
WHERE? St. Nicholas 1260 Davis St. San Jose, CA small hall

• **SUMMER CAMP**



Saint Nicholas Ranch, Summer Camp registrations usually fill up by the end of January. So, don't delay, get your kids registered ASAP. You can easily register your kids online by going to the following link:

<http://www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org/editor/summer-camp/>

Let Maria Know...

Let Maria know...

- 1) if you no longer wish to receive the eBulletin.
- 2) if you would like to be added to our weekly eBulletin distribution list. Please provide me with your first & last name and email address.
- 3) if we have your current contact information: name, address, phone number(s) and email address.



You can send an email to Maria at: stbasilchurch@sbcglobal.net or call 408-268-3214 on Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Thank you!

Now Enrolling



Safari Kid has over 30 locations in USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia and India for Preschool and Pre-K Programs. They have an ability-based learning program committed to helping all students become lifelong learners:

- Creative Arts & Literacy
- Imaginative Explorations
- Phonics & Math
- Stem Program
- Social/Emotional Development
- Music & Movement
- Customized Curriculum

Call 408-600-6031 or visit www.safarikidUSA.com or www.facebook.com/safarikidalmaden to enroll your child today!

Church Directory



We have begun to develop a new church directory as the current one is so out of date. Please help us update our records.

We would like to obtain:

- The name of each family member
- Home address
- Home phone number
- Cell & email address

Email it to: stbasilschurch@sbcglobal.net or call the office 408-268-3214.

It is important to inform the Church Office when you have an address change. In this way, we are able to keep our files current and avoid unnecessary charges from the Post Office.

Bulletin Deadline

All announcements and articles must be written as you would like them to appear in the bulletin(s). Changes and edits might be made. They must be emailed to: stbasilschurch@sbcglobal.net **BY WEDNESDAY MORNING, 10:00 AM.** Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.
