

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

602 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska

Rev. Peter J. Pappas, Presbyter - Phone (402) 871-6241



Sunday, December 18, 2011

Sunday before the Nativity: The Genealogy of Christ; Martyr Sebastian and his companions at Rome (+287); Modestos, Archbishop of Jerusalem (+634); Righteous Floros, Bishop of Amissos (+7th c.); Michael the Confessor at Constantinople (+845)

The Bread of the Offering (*Prosporo*) was prepared by Suzanne Holczer-Reif.

Parish Council Ushers: George Barelos / Elaine Poulos / Judy Stom / Elaine Schall

Community Ushers: Demetris and Vana Kotsalis

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Hymns of the Entrance



Resurrectional Hymn (First Tone)

The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred body. O Savior the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life, whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory unto our resurrected Christ. Glory unto Your Kingdom. Glory to Your dispensation, O You alone who love all.

Entrance Hymn (Second Tone): Come, let us bow down to Christ, as we worship Him, the Son of God. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead. We sing to You, "Alleluia!"

Resurrectional Hymn (First Tone) - *Repeat*

Hymn of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Second Tone)

Great are the accomplishments of faith. In the fountain of flame, the three Holy Youths rejoiced as though they were resting by the waters. And the prophet Daniel showed himself to be a shepherd to the lions, as though they were sheep. Through their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Hymn of St. John the Baptizer (Second Tone)

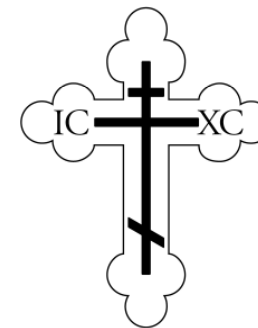
A righteous man is remembered with praise, for you Forerunner the Lord's witness is enough. You were shown to be greater in honor than the prophets, being privileged to baptize in the stream the One you had foretold. Therefore, rejoicing, you suffered for the sake of truth, and proclaimed the good news to those in Hades, that God had appeared in the flesh to take away the sin of the world, and grant our souls His great mercy.



VASILOPITA CELEBRATION 2012

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church in Omaha, Nebraska once again invites the entire Parish and friends to participate in our Annual *Vasilopita* observance on Sunday, January 8, 2012 immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Come and recognize those who serve in our parish. Help keep our Orthodox traditions and customs alive by your participation.



The celebration will feature our traditional fast-paced audible auction format.

All proceeds benefit the charitable projects of our local chapter and the national Philoptochos, including St. Basil Academy.

***Services for the Nativity of our
Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ***

Christmas Eve

**Saturday, December 24
Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.**

***Christmas Day - The Nativity of Christ*
Sunday, December 25**

**Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

***New Year's Day*
Feast of St. Basil – Circumcision of our Lord
Sunday, January 1, 2012**

**Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Thursday, January 5 - Fast Day

***Friday, January 6, Holy Theophany*
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
(with the Blessing of Water)**

Great Vespers of St. John the Baptizer 6:30 p.m.

***Saturday, January 7, Synaxis of St. John the Baptizer*
The Nativity of Christ (Julian Calendar)
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

***Sunday after Theophany, Sunday, January 8*
Matins 9:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Kontakion Hymn of the Nativity of our Lord (Third Tone)

The virgin on this day comes to the cave to give birth, ineffably to bring forth the Word eternal. Therefore, rejoice, therefore, O earth, at the message. With the angels and the shepherds give glory to Him who shall appear by His own will as a young child, He who is God before the ages.



The Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9,10,32-40 (p. 244 in the pew Bibles)
Reader: Nikolaos Piperis
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 (p. 1 in the pew Bibles)

Welcome, Visitors! Please join us for refreshments following the Divine Liturgy in the fellowship hall. Today's fellowship hour sponsor is Nancy Stom.

Church School students should proceed to their classes immediately following the Gospel reading in order to prepare for the Christmas program. The Christmas Program will be held today following the Divine Liturgy.

Cookie Walk: Thank you to the following ladies who provided cookies for sale and/or helped with the Cookie Walk: Helen Amlin, Olympia Axiotes, Elaine Boner, Vana Kotsalis, Angie Lewis, Georgia Matheakis, Helen Nick, Peggy Payne, Elaine Poulos, Susie Poulos, Judy Stom, and Mary Stom. And, a special thanks to the parishioners who supported the event with their purchases. The proceeds are directed to the renovation fund.

Beginning to look a lot like Christmas: A very special thank you to Nancy Stom and Maria Sanderson for offering their talents in setting the stage for Christmas at St John's with all of the wonderful decorations. In addition to our parishioners admiring them, our tour guests also offered many compliments.

Share in the Spirit of the Season: Our Philoptochos will distribute a limited number of food baskets from the SHARE food program to neighborhood families for Christmas. The Christmas dinner packages come with all the fixings to cook a meal for six. Please contact the church office if you would like to donate \$28 for a basket.

Baptism: Dimitri, Robin, and Nicholas Sourtas invite you to witness the reception of their family into the Orthodox Church through the sacraments of baptism and chrismation today at 3:00 p.m. here at St. John's.

Community Meal: St. John's will be serving the community meal at First Baptist Church on Saturday, December 31 at 11:00 a.m. Volunteers, please join us at 10:00 a.m.

Make plans now to attend the Metropolis of Chicago Western Region Family Basketball Tournament, February 10-12, 2012 in St. Paul, Minnesota. For more information, please contact Charlie Tsatsos. Team Spirit ... Pass it on!

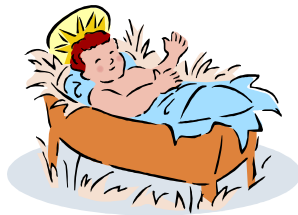
Parish Christmas Card: Take the opportunity to convey Christmas greetings to our entire community. The deadline is December 19. 'Tis the Season to decorate our house of worship! You may sponsor poinsettias for \$10 / each. Please sign up today.

St. John's Church School
Christmas Pageant



*The Incarnation: Prophecy Fulfilled
Today, December 18
following the Divine Liturgy*

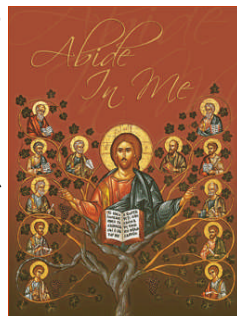
Please stay and support our youth as they show us the greatest gift of all.



Remember the Food Pantry!

During the month of December, please bring baby food, baby cereal, formula, and diapers. All food items are always welcome. It's a baby shower for the Savior!

Stewardship 2012: Abide in Me! Please prayerfully consider your commitment of time, talents, and treasures to our parish for the coming year and return your commitment card today. Help us meet our goal of \$172,000 which is necessary to sustain the ministries of our community. Offering envelopes for adults and children are available to assist you in fulfilling your commitment. If you wish to receive a set of envelopes or have any questions about our stewardship program, contact Elaine Schall at (402) 498-0306 or e-mail eschall@aol.com.



St. John's Community CHRISTMAS Card

We are preparing the Annual Community Christmas Card at St. John's. For \$25, you and your family can be included in the beautiful expression of joy and unity in our faith that is mailed out to the entire community for the Christmas season.

Please sign your name in the way you want it to appear on the card and return this form, along with \$25 to a Parish Council Member or to the Church Office by December 19, 2011.

Name: _____

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Omaha, Nebraska

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

If you would like to donate a flower that will adorn our place of worship during the 2010 Nativity season for your family or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the following information and return it along with \$10.00 to a Parish Council Member or to the Church Office by December 22.

(Circle One)

In Memory of / For _____

Your Name _____

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Omaha, Nebraska

Looking Ahead...			
Today	12/18	Christmas Program / Visit by St. Nicholas	
		<i>Baklava</i> Sale Pickup	11:30 p.m.
		Basketball Practice	2:00 p.m.
		Sourtas Baptism	3:00 p.m.
Saturday	12/24	Great Vespers - Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	12/25	Matins (Ushers: Team C)	9:00 a.m.
		Divine Liturgy (<i>Prosporo</i> : Angie Lewis)	10:00 a.m.
		(Ushers: Darlene Krin & John Kuvetakis)	
		Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ	