Reflecting on Our Baptism...

Baptism is the door through which we enter the Family of God. It is the first of the Mysteries of the Christian faith. Because it is the ancient tradition to baptize infants, it is necessary for us to think back to our own initiation into Christ and to know what this rite involves.

Baptism involves PROMISING. Godparents, speaking in behalf of the infant, promise to believe in Christ and to serve Him. A promise is also made to renounce sin and Satan. Certainly there is much for us to ponder in later life as we consider these vows on that solemn occasion.

Baptism involves ANOINTING. In centuries past, kings were always anointed into their office. When the Prophet Samuel sought out a king for Israel, he found a shepherd lad, Saul, and poured oil over him, anointing him to be the king. Before anointing, he was but a shepherd; after the ritual, he was the king. So, when an infant is brought for baptism, they are anointed as a member of the King’s family.

Baptism involves WASHING. That’s why water is used. Deeply ingrained in human nature is sin. Mankind has been able to rid himself of many diseases, but not of sin. All are infected with this malady. So, we need cleansing. Jesus told Peter prior to the Mystical Supper: “If I wash you not ... you shall have no part of Me.” It is only Christ who can remove this moral leprosy from humanity.

Baptism involves RE-BIRTH. “Unless you are born again ... you cannot enter the kingdom of God,” our Lord said. Once a child is baptized, they are a new creature; they are not the same as they were before. They now belong to Christ, they are a child of God and an heir of life eternal.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin

Vestal, Clifton, New Jersey

Utho in U.S.A.
ST. HARALAMBOS SUNDAY BULLETIN
January 7, 2018
SYNAXIS OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy immediately following the Orthros.

TODAY’S MEMORIAL:
10 Years: Rosalie Forinash
MAY HER MEMORY BE ETERNAL.
Today’s Vasilopita coffee hour is lovingly co-sponsored by her family.

JANUARY SCHEDULE
SUN. Jan. 7
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSSES RESUME TODAY
Parish Council Oath of Office
GOYA Meeting after services
Girls Basketball after services
VASILOPITA SUNDAY & FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY
Boys Basketball 4:00 p.m.
Philoptochos Board Meeting after Vasilopita
MON. Jan. 8
Greek School Resumes 5:30 p.m.
TUE. Jan. 9
Greek Fest Meeting 6:30 p.m.
GOYA/PAPA GYROS FUNDRAISER
WE. Jan. 10
Boys Basketball 6:30 p.m.
THUR. Jan. 11
Hellenic Dancers 4:20 p.m.
FRI. Jan. 12
FISH DINNER 4:30 p.m.
SUN. Jan. 14
TUESDAY AFTER THEOPHANY 9:00 a.m.
MON. Jan. 15
MLK DAY OFFICE CLOSED
TUE. Jan. 16
No Greek School Classes
Adult Bible Study 3:30 p.m.

Congratulations to the 2018 St. Haralambos Parish Council!
Vince Arrigo, Rena Cotopolis, Ron A. Darrah, Steve Diamant,
Mike Fakelis, Mary Griveas, David Hallaman, Jim Kellamis,
Dennis Tzoulouflis, Christopher Vallos & Georgia Zenallis.
Parish Council members will recite the Oath of Office immediately following the Divine Liturgy.
We wish you a productive and successful term and we thank you for your service to St. Haralambos Church!

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE:
January 14, 2017, Team B
Sunday After Theophany

NEXT BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
3:30-4:30 PM
Father Nick

THUR. Jan. 11
Hellenic Dancers 4:20 p.m.

VASILOPITA SUNDAY and FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY TODAY!!!
Join us in the Alex D. Krassas Event Center immediately following church services.
We will enjoy the annual cutting of the Vasilopita and a delicious light lunch prepared by our talented kitchen crew!
We will also celebrate Father Nick’s 11th Anniversary at St. Haralambos!
We have planned an afternoon of fellowship and fun! Please join us!
Sponsored by the St. Haralambos Ladies Philoptochos c/o 2018 Parish Council.

A Friendly Reminder: Parishioners ages 18 & older (even students) should fill out a pledge card for 2018. Thank you for your generosity!

2018 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES
For those parishioners using envelopes, the 2018 Stewardship Envelopes are available for pickup in the Sunday School hallway.
PLEASE NOTE: The envelopes are arranged ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME, not by envelope number.
Please look closely at the label to be sure you pick up the correct box.
***You should have the same envelope number that you did in 2017.
***Please begin using these envelopes next week and discard any unused 2017 envelopes.
We kindly ask that you do not pick up boxes for your family members and friend. These envelope numbers are specifically assigned and cannot be reassigned if envelopes are misplaced or lost.
If you are unable to locate your box, please contact the church office as soon as possible.
We thank you for your patience and cooperation.

The St. Haralambos Men’s Club invites All GOYANS & Altar Boys to the
CANTON CHARGE vs. SIOUX FALLS SKYFORCE
Saturday, January 20, 2018
8:00 PM
Canton Civic Center
Please RSVP to: Vince Arrigo, Men’s Club President,
(330-880-6839) or Linda Natale, GOYA Advisor,
(330-495-8427), if you will be attending!

Pan-Hellenic Scholarship Foundation
The 2017-2018 Scholarship applications for eligible undergraduates are now available online:
www.panhellenicorganizations.org

2018 CANTON GREEK FEST
Please join us for our next planning meeting!
Tuesday, January 9, 2017
6:30 p.m.
St. Haralambos Youth Room
Area Chairpersons and anyone who would like to be involved in the planning are invited to attend.

ST. HARALAMBOS FISH DINNER
FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017
4:30 PM - 7:30 PM
St. Haralambos Cultural Center
Fish Choices: Fried, Baked or Plaki
$12 Adult, $8 Child (12 and under)
With Rice or Potato, Green Beans, Roll, Salad & Coffee.
Soft Drinks and Desserts available for purchase!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!

Saint Haralambos
105th Anniversary Ball
Saturday, February 3, 2018
Alex D. Krassas Event Center
Begin planning now to attend this wonderful, fun affair with family and friends!
6:00 PM
Appetizers, Wine & Silent Auction in the Cultural Center
7:00 PM
Delicious Prime Rib (or Vegetarian) Dinner in the Krassas Center, followed by an evening of dancing to the music of “The Levendes.”
-Dinner/Dance Ticket Donation: $50/person
-Prime Rib Dinner / Vegetarian Available
-Youth (12 Years of age & under): $10 (separate children’s menu)
-Dance Only Donation: $25/person
For reservations/tickets contact:
Mary Griveas 330-649-9832, mgriveas@hotmail.com OR
Stella Vallos 330-459-9732, chuchus@aol.com.
January 7, 2018 Sunday Verses
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Apolytikion of the Feast. Mode 1.

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ
Ος στῦλος ακλόνητος, τῆς Εκκλησίας Χριστοῦ, καὶ Λύχνος αείφωτος, τῆς οἰκουμένης σοφή, ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπες· ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου, ἔλυσας καὶ εἰδώλων τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ· διὸ ἐν παρρησίᾳ Χριστῷ. Πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

Of the Church
As a pillar unshaken of Christ's holy Church, and lamp ever-burning to all the world you emerged, O wise Haralambos; in all the world you shined, with the martyrdom you suffered, you dispelled the dark night, of the idols, O blessed; whence, with courage do intercede, to Christ that we may be saved.

Κοντάκιον. Ἡχος δ’
Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον τή οἰκουμένη, καί τό φώς σου Κύριε, εσημειώθη εφ’ ημᾶς, ἐν επιγνώσει υμνούντας σε. Ηὕτες εφάνης το Φῶς τό απρόσιτον.

January 6 - Theophany

You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with under-stand-ing, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable.

ʼἩχος πλ. β’
When the angelic powers appeared at Your grave, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary who was seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades, not afflicted by it. You went to meet the virgin, and granted eternal life. You res-urrected from the dead. O Lord, glory to You.

Τοῦ Προδρόμου. Ἡχος β’
The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἐορτῆς. Ἡχος α’.
In Iordanē βαπτιζόμενον σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερωθησε πρεσβύνης τον για Γεννήτορος θεον προσκυνησε σου, αναγνωρισας σου και το Πνευμα εν ειδι περιστερας, ἔβαλον τον λόγον το σωτηρας. Ο ἐπιφανεις Χριστε ο Θεος, και τον κόσμου φωτός δέχα σοι.
In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."