

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

On the great Feast Day of THEOPHANY, we commemorate, our Lord's baptism in the Jordan River by John. Have you ever wondered why Jesus was baptized? Why did the Sinless One need to submit to a ritual that symbolized the washing away of sins? St. John himself must have had the same question in his mind. The Gospels tell us that when Christ approached him in the Jordan, he was reluctant to baptize Him, saying: *"I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"* (Matthew 3:14) In the following verse of Matthew's Gospel, Christ answers: *"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."*

Therein lies our answer. Jesus certainly did not **NEED** purification. But by making the purification of humanity His own, He would wash away the sin of humanity, grant regeneration and reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Thus, Christ's baptism was necessary for the fulfillment of all of God's righteousness. St. Gregory of Nyssa puts it beautifully: ***"JESUS ENTERS THE SINFUL WATERS OF THE WORLD, AND WHEN HE COMES OUT, HE PURIFIES THE ENTIRE WORLD WITH HIM."***

The Church refers to baptism as a *"new birth."* In this *"new birth,"* a true mystery takes place, for in the Sacrament of Baptism, we die, going down into the water to be mystically united to Christ in His death. Then we live again, rising up out of the water in His Resurrected humanity.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.



ST. HARALAMBOS SUNDAY BULLETIN

January 5, 2025

EVE OF THE THEOPHANY

Orthros 9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy immediately following the Orthros.

JANUARY SCHEDULE

SUN JAN 5	†Eve of the Theophany Vasilopita - Krassas Event Center Girls Basketball Practice Boys Basketball Practice	9:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
MON JAN 6	†Holy Theophany	9:00 a.m.
TUE JAN 7	†St. John the Baptist Greek School	9:00 a.m. 5:15 p.m.
WED JAN 8	Boys Basketball	6:30 p.m.
THUR JAN 9	Hellenic Beginner Dancers - GYM Hellenic Intermediate Dancers Hellenic Training Seniors Dancers Hellenic Senior Dancers Girls Basketball	4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
FRI JAN 10	Fish Fry	
SUN JAN 12	†Sunday After Theophany Coffee Hour - Krassas Event Center JOY - Operation Classroom Project-Yth Room Girls Basketball Practice Boys Basketball Practice	9:00 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
TUE JAN 14	Greek School	5:15 p.m.



ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE January 5, 2025 ~ TEAM B



SPECIAL 2nd TRAY

Today, The Philoptochos will pass a 2nd tray for St. Basil Academy.

PLEASE NOTE:

THE COMBINED SENIORS' LUNCHEON @ HOLY TRINITY IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH @ NOON



UPCOMING MEMORIALS

January 12, 2025

17-yr Memorial - Rosalie Forinash
3yr Taso Konstantacos



VASILOPITA SUNDAY TODAY! January 5, 2025

Please join us for our traditional Vasilopita Today, Sunday, January 5th in the Krassas Event Center following church services.

Sponsored by: The St. Haralambos Ladies Philoptochos

CALLING ALL BREAD BAKERS!



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO BAKE THE WEEKLY PROSFORO FOR OUR SUNDAY SERVICES.

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 330-454-7278

Pan-Orthodox

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters



Nimishillen Creek

Monday, January 6 (Epiphany)

Noon

Stadium Park, Shelter # 5
Stadium Park Dr. NW



The Stark County Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood



2025 ST. HARALAMBOS GOYA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

As we prepare to host our 2025 GOYA Tournament January 31st through February 2nd 2025, we are asking our church community to support the weekend and ensure the children have a safe and joyous time in fellowship.

We are raising funds for music, food, gym rentals etc.

Please contact Aristeia Tzouloufis at 330.936.9072 if you are interested in donating."

2025 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

For those parishioners using envelopes, the 2025 Stewardship Envelopes are now available for pickup in the hallway leading up to the church.

PLEASE NOTE: The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order by LAST NAME, not by envelope number.

**PLEASE
NOTE**

The 2025 AMNOS Daily Bible Reading Guide for Orthodox Christians is now available in the Church Narthex and the organizer in front of the Church Office.

SCAN ME



[Make a Donation \(tithe.ly\)](https://tithe.ly)

Tithe.ly Online Stewardship Payment Options

You can now scan the QR code to your left to log into Tithe or go directly to their website (tithe.ly) to make Stewardship, Memorial or Candle payments.

To scan QR code:

Apple iphone- use your camera app and click on the yellow link that appears on the screen.

Android (non-apple) phone- use QR code scanner if already installed or go to Google Play Store and download.

Either option will take you directly to our donation website for your donation to St. Haralambos Church.

January 5, 2025: FEAST: Proeortia of Theophany; Sunday Pre-Theophany; Holymartyr Theopemptos, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas (+298); Righteous Synkletike (+350); Romanos the Younger of Karpenesi, Neomartyr (+1694).

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Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον ᾠχος γ΄
Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ
Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας
ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Προεόρτιον ᾠχος δ΄
Ἀπεστρέφετό ποτε, ὁ Ἰορδάνης ποταμός, τῇ μηλωτῇ Ἐλισαιέ, ἀναληφθέντος Ἡλιοῦ, καὶ
διηρεῖτο τὰ ὕδατα ἔνθεν καὶ ἔνθεν, καὶ γέγονεν αὐτῷ, ξηρὰ ὁδὸς ἡ ὑγρά, εἰς τύπον ἀληθῶς
τοῦ Βαπτίσματος, δι’ οὗ ἡμεῖς τὴν ρέουσαν, τοῦ βίου διαπερῶμεν διάβασιν, Χριστὸς
ἐφάνη, ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ, ἀγιάσαι τὰ ὕδατα.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ
Ὡς στῦλος ἀκλόνητος, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Χριστοῦ, καὶ λύχνος αἰείφωτος, τῆς οἰκουμένης
σοφέ, ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπες· ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου. ἔλυσας καὶ
εἰδώλων τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ· διὸ ἐν παρρησίᾳ Χριστῷ. Πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

Κοντάκιον ᾠχος δ
Ἐν τοῖς ρείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ· Μὴ
δειλιάσης βαπτίσαι με· σῶσαι γὰρ ἤκω, Ἀδάμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

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Resurrectional Apolytikion Mode 3
Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown
strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead.
Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great
mercy.

For the Forefeast Mode 4
Jordan River once turned back when Elisha struck its stream with his mantle in the wake
of Elias’s ascent; and the water was parted to the one side and to the other. And thus the
fluid stream became a dry way for him, a symbol and truly a type of Baptism, by which
we now pass over the streaming passage of the present life. And Christ appeared at the
Jordan River to sanctify the waters.

Hymn 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.

Kontakion Mode 4
To the flowing streams today of River Jordan comes the Lord and cries aloud to John the
Baptist, and He says, “Be not afraid to baptize me now; for I have come to save Adam,
the first-formed man.”

January 5, 2025 Sunday Before Epiphany
2 Timothy 4:5-8



Epistle

The reading is from Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy.

Timothy, my son, always be watchful, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

January 5, 2025 Prayer of the Gospel
Mark 1:1-8



Gospel

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight —’ John was baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”