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.



Apolytikion of Eve of Epiphany

Fourth Tone

River Jordan was turned back by Elisseus' mantle once, when the fiery man of zeal Elias had been taken up; then were its waters divided hither and thither. The running streams became dry passage unto him, truly as a sign and type of Baptism, whereby we pass to the other side of the shifting stream of this fleeting life. Christ hath appeared in the Jordan River, to sanctify the waters.

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

January 5, 2025

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Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
(Closed noon-1pm for lunch)

Sunday Services
Orthros 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Orthros Liturgy

Epistle
II Timothy
4:5-8

Gospel
Mark
1:1-8

Attendance
12/29/24
110

Upcoming Memorials

January 12, 2025
3-Yr. Trisagion - Aris Kaplanis

January 19, 2025
1-Yr. Memorial & Coffee Hour - Justin Gesquiere

January 25, 2025
40-Day Memorial & Coffee Hour - Aristides Amentas
40-Day Memorial & Coffee Hour - George Macrides

Condolences

Semala Milano, age 93, fell asleep in the Lord on December 26, 2024.

May her memory be eternal!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Holy Trinity's Food Pantry is expanding and growing each month. Our Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help in the pantry during the third Wednesday of each month from noon until 3:00 pm. Help stock and manage the pantry shelves and sign in the people as they arrive!

To volunteer, please see Denise Bellas on Sunday, call her at 330-497-9117 or email her at bellasdenise@gmail.com.

Sunday School Collection through January 2025

Help take care of our Furry Friends this holiday season through the Stark County Humane Society. Supplies are being collected through January 26, 2025 in the bin under the coat racks. A list of needed items can be found on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Donation of time is also needed. Thank you!

COFFEE HOURS AT HOLY TRINITY



Coffee Hours are a great start at making our visitors and friends feel welcome. Our goal from the Missions and Outreach Team for 2025 continues for having a coffee hour following each Sunday Liturgy. Individuals and families are welcome to sign up. Pastries, coffee and juice are plenty; no need for a light meal. Tables will be set up.

Will you consider hosting one? Most days are still open.

Please call the Church Office if interested!

SOMETHING NEW

On the first Sunday of each month, the first 3 rows of pews on the left side of the church will be roped off for our new Youth Sermon Dates.

STEWARDSHIP WAYS TO GIVE:

There are four ways to give to Holy Trinity: Mail in/drop in baskets on Sunday, set up an ACH withdrawal, bank draft through your financial institution, or through secure online giving on our website at :

https://htgoc.net/giving/donate



PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation 2024/2025

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2025**. The application and qualification criteria, requirements and guidelines are available at:

https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply

Calendar for the Week

All Services are streaming online @ *www.htgoc.net/live*

Sunday, January 5
Eve of Theophany
Great Water Blessing 11:00 AM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Monday, January 6
Holy Theophany
Orthros 8:30 AM
Liturgy 9:30 AM
Great Water Service 11:00 AM
Girls Basketball 6:00 PM

Tuesday, January 7
St. John the Baptist
Orthros 8:30 AM
Liturgy 9:30 AM
Sr. Board Meeting 11:00 AM
Ladies Exercise 6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 8
Bible Study 11:00 AM
Paraklesis 6:00 PM
Boys Basketball 7:00 PM

Thursday, January 9
Koraes Board Meeting 7:00 PM
Young Adult Basketball 7:30 PM

Friday, January 10
No Scheduled Events

Saturday, January 11
No Scheduled Events

Sunday, January 12
Swearing in of Parish Council
Vasilopita Cutting
Trisagion - Aris Kaplanis (3 Yrs)
Koraes Coffee Hour 11:30 AM
Baptism - David Teague 4:00 PM

NO CASH?
NO PROBLEM!
Scan code with smart phone to make a payment!

SCAN ME

Resurrectional Apolytikion.
Mode pl. 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. *Joseph marveled.*

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.

Apolytikion of Our Church
Mode pl. 4.

Blessed are You, O Christ our God; Who did show forth the fishermen to be all-wise, by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit. And through them You drew the world into Your net, O Friend of man, glory to You!

Kontakion.
Mode 4. *You revealed yourself today.*

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."

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2
Psalm 27.9,1
O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, 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.

The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8

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, 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."

πολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον.

Ἦχος 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 ᾅδου ἐῤῥύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Προεόρτιον.

Ἦχος δ΄. *Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ.*

Ἀπεστρέφετό ποτε, ὁ Ἰορδάνης ποταμός, τῇ μηλωτῇ Ἐλισαιέ, ἀναληφθέντος Ἠλιού, καὶ διῃρεῖτο τὰ ὕδατα ἔνθεν καὶ ἔνθεν, καὶ γέγονεν αὐτῷ, ξηρὰ ὁδὸς ἡ ὑγρά, εἰς τύπον ἀληθῶς τοῦ Βαπτίσματος, δι' οὗ ἡμεῖς τὴν ῥέουσαν, τοῦ βίου διαπερῶμεν διάβασιν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ, ἁγιάσαι τὰ ὕδατα.

Τοῦ Ναοῦ.

Ἦχος πλ. δ΄.

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ὁ πανσόφους τοὺς ἁλιεῖς ἀναδείξας, καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον, καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην σαγηνεύσας, Φιλάνθρωπε, δόξα σοι.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος δ΄. *Ἐπεφάνης σήμερον.*

Ἐν τοῖς ῥείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονὼς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ· Μὴ δειλιάσῃς βαπτίσαι με· σῶσαι γὰρ ἦκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. β'
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποίησον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειταί μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μᾶρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

᾽Αρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ᾽Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. ῾Ως γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδόν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἑτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο ᾽Ιωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ ᾽Ιουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ ῾Ιεροσολυμῖται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ ᾽Ιορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ᾽ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. ῏Ην δὲ ὁ ᾽Ιωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι ῾Αγίῳ.