

# THE MESSENGER

*Weekly Worship Guide of The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, Atlanta Georgia*

**Sunday, December 31, 2017 - Κυριακή, 31 Δεκεμβρίου, 2017**

**Sunday Before Epiphany - Κυριακή Πρό των Φώτων**

*Apodosis of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Melany the Righteous of Rome, Zoticos the Patron of Orphans, Gelasios the Righteous, Gains the Righteous, The Ten Virgin-Martyrs of Nicomedia, Olympiodora the Martyr, Nemi the Martyr, Vouseres the Martyr, Gaudentius the Martyr*

## TODAY'S MEMORIALS

1 Year Memorial for Eugenia Tsoukatos

1 Year Memorial for Dr. George S. Kleris

*Today's Coffee Fellowship is sponsored in Loving Memory of  
Dr. George S. Kleris by his Family*

## MELANY THE RIGHTEOUS OF ROME



Saint Melany the Younger, who was born in 388, was the grand-daughter of Saint Melany the Elder (see June 8). Her father Publicola was an Eparch of Rome. She was joined in wedlock to a husband and became the mother of two children, both of which she lost shortly thereafter. Thus, having agreed with her husband to pass the rest of their lives in abstinence and chastity, and taking her mother Albina with her, she went off to Africa. They ransomed 8,000 captives; furthermore, they built two monasteries - one for men and one for women - in the city of Tagaste, which was in the district of Tunis. After seven years they moved to Jerusalem. Thereafter Melany shut herself up in a small and narrow hermitage by the Mount of Olives, and wearing away her body with fasting and vigil, she reposed in 434.

*Because of the Apodosis of the Feast of the Nativity on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month, the hymns of Saint Melany the Younger are transferred to December 30<sup>th</sup> along with the Martyr Anysia.*

*(From the website of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese)*

# ORDER OF HYMNS FOLLOWING THE SMALL ENTRANCE

## Απολυτίκιον ᾠ Απολυτίκια

### Ἀναστάσιμον Ἀπολυτίκιον. ᾠ Ηχος πλ. α΄

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠδύοκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγειρῆαι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

### Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς. ᾠ Ηχος δ΄

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο· σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Θεοπατόρων. ᾠ Ηχος β΄

Εὐαγγελίζου Ἰωσήφ, τῷ Δαυὶδ τὰ θαύματα τῷ Θεοπάτορι· Παρθένον εἶδες κυοφορήσασαν, μετὰ Μάγων προσεκύνησας, μετὰ Ποιμένων ἐδοξολόγησας, δι' Ἀγγέλου χρηματισθείς. Ἰκέτευε Χριστὸν τὸν Θεόν, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

### Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ. ᾠ Ηχος δ΄

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἢ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

### Κοντάκιον. ᾠ Ηχος γ΄

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ Σπήλαιον, τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει. Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων δοξολογοῦσι. Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι· δι' ἡμᾶς γὰρ ἐγεννήθη, Παιδίον νέον, ὁ πρὸ αἰώνων Θεός.

### Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode pl. 1

Let us worship the Word who is unoriginate \* with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born \* for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. \* For in His goodness He was pleased \* to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, \* and to raise up those who had died, \* by His glorious Resurrection.

### Apolytikion Feast. Mode 4

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

### Apolytikion for the Ancestors of God. Mode 2

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

### Apolytikion of the Church. Mode 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery which was hidden from eternity. The Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announces the grace of this Good News. Let us also join with him, calling to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Woman full of grace; the Lord is with you.

### Kontakion. Mode 3

On this day the Virgin gives \* birth to the Super-essential. \* To the Unapproachable, \* earth is providing the grotto. \* Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. \* Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. \* He was born for our salvation, a new-born Child, the pre-eternal God.



**DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 13 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK**

## SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ

**TODAY'S EPISTLE READER: SOPHIA PAPPADAKIS  
ST PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY 4:5-8**

**PROKEIMENON:** *O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.*

**VERSE:** *To You, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil 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.

### **TODAY'S GOSPEL READING: 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."

***“Take up and read, take up and read.”*** St. Augustine, *Confessions XII*

**DIVINE LITURGY CONTINUES ON PAGE 29 OF THE DIVINE LITURGY BOOK**





#### ACOLYTES GROUP FOUR

Jack Demos	Jack McClure
John Xides	Manoli Pappas
Matthew Davis	Michael Costopoulos
Nicolas Adams	Niko Skiouris
Teddy Gassert	Nikolaos Odenwelder
Yanni Kitas	William Adams
Yanni Pothoulakis	

#### HANDMAIDENS GROUP FOUR

Anastasia Zaharis	Andreanna Kitas
Callie Davis	Elianna Vallianatos
Gabriella Mayes	Mela Xides
Paraskevi Baker	Penelope Melissas
Reece Hughes	Remy Hughes

The following Parish Council members will be on duty today during the Divine Liturgy:

Chris Adams  
George Koulouris

Tom McBride III  
George Karolis

Charlie Burland  
Dimitri Shreckengost

### GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

*Holy Communion* is offered in the Orthodox Church only to those individuals baptized and chrismated (confirmed) in the Orthodox Faith. To participate in Holy Communion one must be in good standing with the Church spiritually (for example, married people must have had their marriage blessed in the Church; and, all must be without grave sin on their hearts). For all Orthodox Christians, the proper preparation for Holy Communion must be observed: that is, examination of conscience, confession, reading the prayers for Holy Communion, and the proper fasting. If you have any further questions about this, please speak with the clergy. Women should remove all lipstick when approaching for Holy Communion. Please let parents with their babies and the elderly approach first. Thank you.

*"How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."* Psalm 83 (84): 1-2



Rev. Fr. Paul A. Kaplanis, *Dean*  
Rev. Fr. Christos P. Mars, *Presbyter*  
Elias Lampropoulos, *Pastoral Assistant*

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