

# WINTER ISSUE

## December 2019 - February 2020

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Eva Trujillo  
Margaret Assemes  
Maria Mantas & family  
Fr. Joseph Gibson  
Nicholas Gianos  
Marina Ashton  
Fr. Daniel & Presbyteria Elizabeth  
Aristidis Asimakopoulos  
Amy and Nathaniel Roth  
Judy Miller  
Alex Moulinos  
Julie Mull  
Achilles & Irene Lambriotis  
Jason Irwin

Betty Bower  
Robert & Denise Kopicz  
Cynthia Aretakis  
Mae Webber  
Ramon Miranda  
Fr. Anthony Demetri  
Theanna Sheetz`  
Vasiliki & Nicholas Tsafopoulos  
Mike and Karen Conzeman  
Fr. Konstantine Petrigeorge & family  
Fr. Constantine Valantasis & family  
Fr. Alexander & Presbyteria Prearl Veronis  
Linda Gowombeck



### FEASTAL HYMNS



Dec 25 - Christ's Birth

**Festal Hymn of Christ's Birth** Tone 4 Your Birth, Christ our God, has shone to the world as the light of knowledge. For by it those who adored the stars were taught by a star to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You, the Eternal Dawn from on high. Lord, glory to You!

Jan 2 - Theophany

**Theophany Troparion**

Tone 1 Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His words. Christ, our God, who has revealed Yourself and has enlightened the world: Glory to You!



Feb 2 - Meeting/Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**Troparion of the Presentation** Tone 1

Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos full of grace; from you has shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ, our God, who gives light to those in darkness. Be glad also, righteous Elder, for you received in your arms the Deliverer of our souls who grants us resurrection.

Feb. 9 - Pre—Lenten Cycle (Triodion)

**Kontakion of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee** Tone 4

Let us flee the reasoning and words of the Pharisee and learn the humility of the Tax Collector. With groaning from the depths let us cry to our Savior: Be merciful to us, for You alone are always ready to forgive.



2/23 - **Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare)**

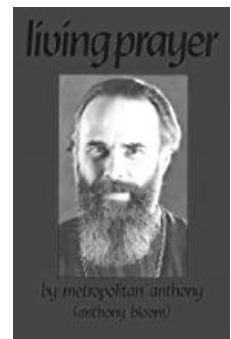
**Kontakion of the Last Judgment** Tone 1 When You come upon the earth with glory, God, the whole world will tremble. The river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat; the books will be opened and the secrets revealed. At that time deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and make me worthy to stand on Your right hand, most righteous Judge.



**NEWS AND EVENTS:**

**Book Study:**

Beginning January, Father Demetrius will be holding a book study on "Living Prayer" by Anthony Bloom. Time is TBA. See Father Demetrius for more information.



**PHILOPTOCHOS**



**Philoptochos:**

Our parish philoptochos meets monthly. We support those in our community and church, and are always seeking God's guidance and will.

### *Coat Drive*

Philoptochos is holding a coat drive. Please consider donating new and/or used coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. Children's items will be donated to St. Mary's Shelter and adult items will be donated to Kutztown University students in need. Place donated items in the labeled bins by the church entrance.



### *Kutztown University Foodbank*

Many students at Kutztown University are living in their cars instead of the dorms. With these students in mind, Philoptochos is collecting items including toiletries and non-perishable food. To support this cause, place donated items in the labeled bins by the church entrance.

### *Christmas Luncheon and Bingo:*

Our annual Philoptochos Christmas Party will follow service on Sunday, **December 8**. Festivities include pot luck lunch and bingo.



### *St Basil Dinner and Vasilopita*

A St Basil luncheon and Vasilopita will follow service on Sunday, **January 5th**. The proceeds for this event will go to St. Basil Academy. Saint Basil Academy is an institute of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese where young orphaned and needy children from broken and unfortunate homes can find protection in a "home away from home."

### **Blessing of the Waters:**

Blessing of the Waters will take place following Liturgy on Sunday, **January 12th**, at Lake Ontelauncee.



### **Meatfare Pot Luck:**

A "pot luck" luncheon will follow liturgy on the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Feb. 23)

*It's the time of the year again for House Blessings, so....*

**Before the Priest Comes to Bless the House**

- Make sure you have notified the priest through phone message or Church sign up sheet and arranged for a date a time. **Please let him know if this is the first time your home is being blessed.**
- Be prepared (this is a serious sacrament).
- Make sure all radios, stereos, TVs, etc., are turned off.
- Have a table where a bowl of water (2/3 to 3/4 full--enough to sprinkle the home with some left over if you wish) with an icon, lit candle, and a list of names, living and deceased, of those you wish to commemorate, may be placed.
- When the priest begins to sprinkle the rooms, lead him to the rooms that you wish blessed, turning on the lights as you enter. This "procession" should include all who are able to walk. Children who are very young may need to be carried (nursing mothers are exempted if the feeding needs to take place immediately).
- Afterwards, return to the place you started (where the table, icon, etc., are) for the closing prayer and blessing.

**Visitor Sundays:**

**December 15, January 19 and February 16** are Visitor Sundays. While we always welcome visitors and friends to our services and events, we designate the third Sunday of every month to make a particular effort to invite visitors to worship with us. Please tell your family, friends and neighbors, and either bring them with you to service or encourage them to meet you there on this day.

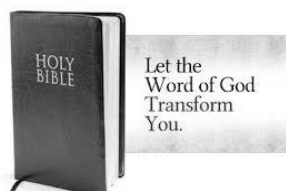


**Website, Sermons and YouTube:**

Our parish website features MP3 audio. We have been regularly uploading audio files of Fr. Demetrius' sermons. Visit our website **stmattsgoc.org** to download.

**St Matthews Online Bookstore:**

St Matthews Bookstore is available online via Amazon. Check out [www.amazon.com/shops/stmattsGOC](http://www.amazon.com/shops/stmattsGOC)



**Scripture Readings:**

Daily Scripture readings are posted daily on our St. Matthew's Facebook Page. Let's read them together.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

*John 13: 15 - After Jesus washed the feet of his disciples... "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done for you..."*

**Parish Council Dates:**

December 18

January 15

February 19



**Opportunity House Shelter Luncheon Date:**

TBA



Help and/or donations are greatly appreciated.  
Contact Tylor Roach for more information.

***Information, articles and photos for the next issue of "The Evangelist" should be submitted to MaryAnn Columbus by February 15.***



**2019 – 2020  
WINTER CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

- Sun. 12/5: Visitor Sunday
- Sun. 12/8: Philoptochos Christmas Party following Liturgy
- Wed. 12/18: Parish Council, 5:30pm
- Tues. 12/24: Pre-Celebration of Christ's Birth 10am  
Vigil (Vespers-Compline) for Christ's Birth, 5:30pm
- Wed. 12/25: Liturgy for the Birth of Christ, 9:30am

**JANUARY**

- Sun. 1/5: St. Basil luncheon and Vasilopita to follow liturgy
- Mon. 1/6: Theophany
- Sun., 1/12: Visitor Sunday; Blessing of the waters at Lake Onteluansee;  
House blessings begin
- Wed., 1/15: Parish Council, 5:30pm

**FEBRUARY**

- Sun. 2/2: Presentation of Christ in the Temple Vespereal Liturgy – 6:30pm
- Sun. 2/16: Visitor Sunday
- Wed. 2/19: Parish Council, 5:30pm
- Sun. 2/9: Sunday of the Pharisee and Tax Collector
- Sun. 2/23: Sunday of Last Judgement, Luncheon to Follow.