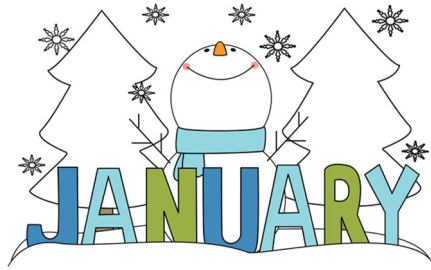


## January at a Glance...

**Friday, January 1**

**Circumcision of Our Lord and  
The Feast Day of St. Basil the Great**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and  
Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.



**Sunday, January 3 - The Sunday  
before Theophany**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, January 5**

**The Eve of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, January 6**

**The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, January 7**

**Saint John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner of Christ**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, January 10 - The Sunday after Theophany**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, January 17 - The 12th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, January 24 - The 14th Sunday of Luke**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, January 30**

**The Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs: Basil the Great,  
Gregory the Theologian, & John Chrysostom**

Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, January 31 - The 15th Sunday of Luke**

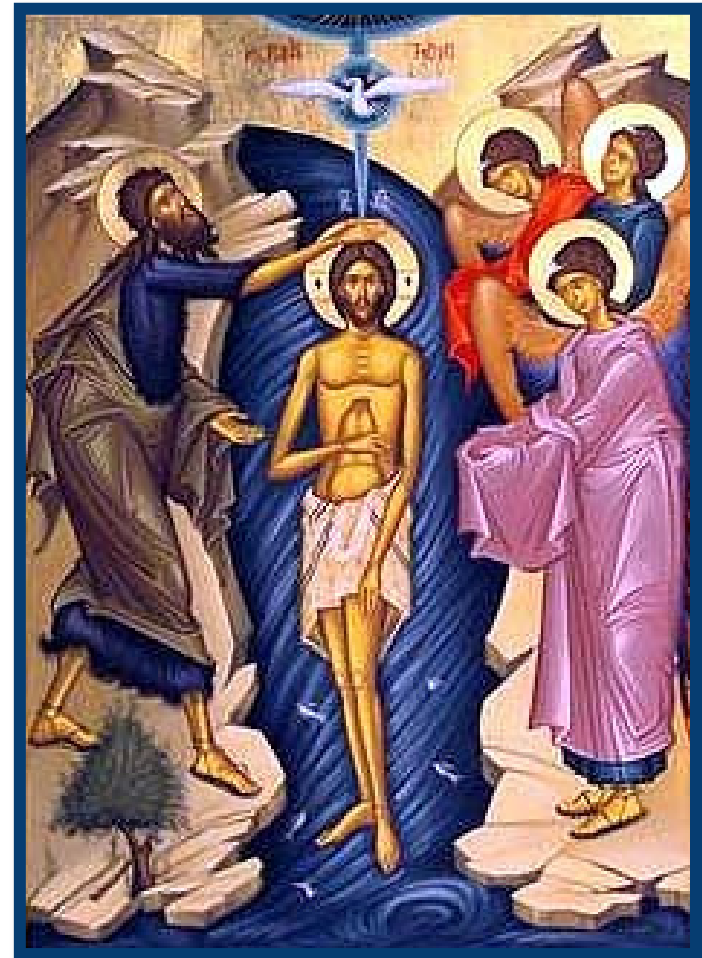
Orthros at 9:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m.

## February in Advance!

**February 21 - The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee**

*Triodion Begins*

**February 28 - The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**



The Epiphany of our Lord - January 6

## **SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Fr. Constantine Makrinos

301 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1753

New Britain, CT 06050-1753

Phone: (860)229-0055; Fax: (860)225-3586

E-mail: [NBStGeorge@AOL.com](mailto:NBStGeorge@AOL.com)

Web: [NBStGeorge.com](http://NBStGeorge.com)

# **January 2021**

### Wintery Weather Advisory

If the weather is bad, please check **WFSB Channel 3** before venturing out to church for services, school, or meetings. Club presidents and school directors should call Andy Aros to announce a postponement or cancellation.



### Philoptochos News

- 1) If you received your card after Christmas, we apologize. Due to the overwhelming mail delivery this year our shipment of the Community Christmas Card was delayed for several weeks and then came the snowstorm the week before the holidays. We thank you for your support this year and many years past. Thanks to you we were able to share your generosity with our church.
- 2) As with many events this year, we are unable to have the Vasilopita celebration in January. With the grace of God, we will celebrate the end of our confinement due to Covid with a Vasilopita as soon as we can.

Hope you are ok and not buried too much!

Donna E. Rados  
Philoptochos President

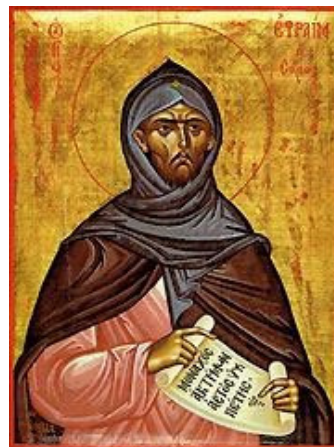
### January Meetings

#### **New Britain AHEPA Meeting**

New Britain Chapter #117 of the Order of AHEPA will have the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Parish Council Meeting**

The first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The election of officers will occur at this socially-distanced meeting, so all members should make every attempt to attend.

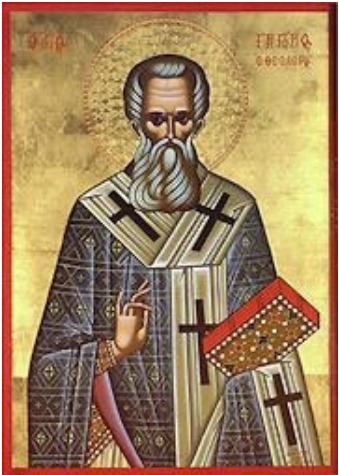


### **Ephraim the Syrian**

January 28

Ephraim was born in Mesopotamia some time around 306, and in his youth was the disciple of Saint James, Bishop of Nisibis, one of the 318 Fathers at the First Ecumenical Council. Ephraim lived in Nisibis, practicing a severe ascetical life and increasing in holiness, until 363, the year in which Julian the Apostate was slain in his war against the Persians, and his successor Jovian surrendered Nisibis to them. Ephraim then made his dwelling in Edessa, where he found many heresies to do battle with. He waged war against Bardaisan; this gnostic had written many hymns propagating his errors, which by their sweet melodies became popular and enticed souls away from the truth. Ephraim, having received from God a singular gift of eloquence, turned Bardaisan's own weapon against him, and wrote a multitude of hymns to be chanted by choirs of women, which set forth the true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the contests of the Martyrs. He wrote a multitude of sermons, commentaries, and hymns. Saint Ephraim was ordained deacon, some say by Saint Basil the Great, whom Sozomen said was a great admirer of Ephraim. Saint Ephraim was the first to make the poetic expression of hymnody and song a vehicle of Orthodox theological teachings. He may rightly be called the first and greatest hymnographer of the Church, who set the pattern for these who followed him, especially Saint Romanos the Melodist. Because of this he is called the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Jerome says that his writings were read in some churches after the reading of the Scriptures.

Shortly before the end of his life, a famine broke out in Edessa, and Ephraim rebuked the rich for not sharing their goods with the poor. The rich answered that they knew no one to whom they could entrust their goods. Ephraim asked, "What do you think of me?" When they confessed their reverence for him, he offered to distribute their alms, to which they agreed. He cared for many with his own hands, and so crowned his life with mercy and love for neighbor. Saint Ephraim reposed in peace, around the year 376.



## Saint Gregory the Theologian

January 25

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in a village of the second district of Cappadocia. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was Gregory and his mother was Nonna; both are among the Saints, as are his brother Caesarius and his sister Gorgona. At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent

sea storm put in peril his life and his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. He besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm. At Athens Gregory was later joined by Saint Basil the Great, a lifelong friend.

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. About the Year 379, Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had been troubled for forty years by the Arians. He was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381. When Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the Triadica. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead. He governed the Church until 382, then returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

His extant writings, both prose and poems, demonstrate his eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning. He is especially called "Trinitarian Theologian," since in virtually every homily he refers to the Trinity and the one essence and nature of the Godhead.

## Ring in a Hopeful New Year

Let's face it: 2020 was a train wreck. Whether you're looking at the pandemic, racial injustice, the climate crisis, the economy or a fraught U.S. election, it can feel like hope is fading faster than the final ember at the tip of a candlewick. Would it be foolish to envision a better 2021?

In his recent book, ***Commanding Hope***, Thomas Homer-Dixon admits that "*many of us have come to regard hope with disdain - as a state of mind that's naive and irresolute at best, delusional at worst.*" The daily news cycle reinforces this cynical outlook, threatening to turn us all into nihilists.

But all is not lost, according to Homer-Dixon. The prominent Canadian intellectual says three changes are essential to our survival as a species:

- 1) A better understanding of our own ideas and what makes others see things differently;
- 2) Actively creating a more positive narrative for the future; and
- 3) Mobilizing our human ingenuity to produce that better world.

*"Each of these changes requires that we have **HOPE**,"* he writes.

Where do you find hope when times are bleak, when challenges seem insurmountable? I think one of the most hopeful phrases in Christianity is "***Thy kingdom come.***" Christians interpret this part of the Lord's Prayer in many ways. I've always taken it as a call to establish on Earth a world that is as equitable, just and "good" as a loving God intended it. Uttering "*Thy kingdom come*" helps me orient myself toward justice, to keep believing that paradise on Earth is possible. Most importantly, it reminds me to keep hoping.

Whatever else we resolve to do in 2021, let's resolve to have hope - to embody hope. Of course, we have to face the hard truths, but let's have faith that we can overcome whatever 2021 may throw at us.

**Have a happy, and hopeful, new year!**

Excerpts from <https://broadview.org/hopeful-new-year/>

Jocelyn Bell is editor-publisher of Broadview.





## The Pastoring Church in the days of the Pandemic

Recognizing the unprecedented situations and complex difficulties that have been created by the Pandemic COVID-19, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has allotted the Network of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Health Care the responsibility of organizing an online Consultation with the theme: *"The Pastoring Church in the days of the Pandemic"*.

The Consultation provides the opportunity for local Churches and health care professionals and providers to exchange the experiences and difficulties they are currently facing. Those participating may concern themselves with how a Pastoring Church can support those that have been afflicted by the virus, together with those that mourn lost ones who were succumbed by it. It seeks out how to provide spiritual care to those that strenuously serve in the areas of Health Care and how to establish a better cooperation with them in their efforts to save lives. The participants will explore ways in which the Church can reach out to those that are alone and isolated during periods of "lockdown", and minister to families whose life and well-being have been disrupted. Another area of discussion will focus on the clergy who are facing various attacks, opposing positions and counter position regarding the Pandemic. Furthermore, participants will explore how to deal with the grave consequences of the Pandemic after its passing.

Foremost, the Consultation will deal with how we live our Faith and our life in the Church during these "days of tribulation". The Consultation began on December 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm (Athens Time). In this session, the question was: "What does it mean to be a "Church" during a 'lockdown' due to a Pandemic?" The main speaker was distinguished and Honorable Mr. Demetrios Mavropoulos, (theologian, author and publisher). Discussion followed the presentation. This first "synaxis" was under two hours long.

The Consultation will continue in intervals throughout several weeks. Following this meeting, approximately every two weeks, a meeting will be scheduled at which different themes will be presented and discussed. There will be simultaneous translations in Greek and English.

The Network of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for Pastoral Health Care  
[www.pastoralhealth-ep.com](http://www.pastoralhealth-ep.com)



## The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

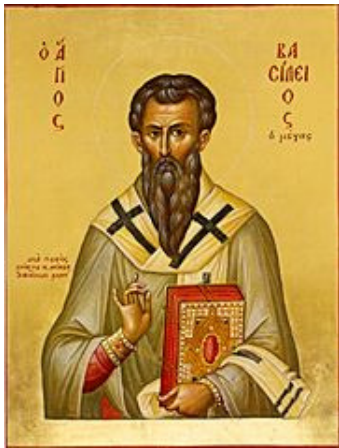
January 6

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though

He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and the voice was heard from the Heavens hearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation, God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of the Heavens.

*Lord, when You were baptized in the Jordan, the veneration of the Trinity was revealed. For the voice of the Father gave witness to You, calling You Beloved, and the Spirit, in the guise of a dove, confirmed the certainty of His words. Glory to You, Christ our God, who appeared and enlightened the world.*

*Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη προσκύνησις, τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοί, ἀγαπητὸν σέ Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα, καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἵδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίου τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοί.*



## Saint Basil the Great -

January 1

Saint Basil the Great was born in 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. His parents were Basil and Emily. His mother, his grandmother Macrina, and all his brothers and sisters (Macrina, Gregory of Nyssa, Peter of Sebastia and Naucratus) are Saints of the Church. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a

friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River where his mother and his sister Macrina were already in ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

Around 370, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, threatened exile and torments to bend the Saint, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia. But he gave himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell sick, he asked Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised his son would be restored if Valens agreed to have him baptized Orthodox. Valens agreed, and the son was restored. Later the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and he set forth doctrines concerning the mysteries of creation and the Holy Trinity. Because of the majesty of his eloquence, he is honored as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great." The truly great Basil departed to the Lord on January 1st, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened."*

(Matthew 7:7-8)

## PRAYER REQUESTS EVERY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE IN 2021

The year 2020 was not what any of us expected. Even as we enter a new year, lasting effects and lingering doubts continue. How are we preparing for 2021?

Let me encourage us to begin with **prayer**. Encourage the church to look forward with the expectation that God delights in answering his people's prayers. The Bible encourages us to approach God boldly in prayer (Hebrews 4:16). When we pray according to God's will (1 John 5:14), we can come before Him boldly, not based on who we are or what we've done but based on who Christ is and what He has accomplished for us by His life, death, resurrection, and ascension.

Because Jesus is now ruling at the Father's right hand, Jesus is the one *"in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him"* (Ephesians 3:12). When we approach God with boldness based on Christ's work, such prayer is pleasing to God!

- ◆ Share Gospel conversations with one another for encouragement and prayer.
- ◆ Pray that each member of the parish will seek meaningful relationships in the church and in one another's lives.
- ◆ Pray for your unchurched and unbelieving neighbors within a five-mile radius of home and church. This will allow you to focus on the immediate neighborhoods around you.
- ◆ Pray that the Lord would provide all the necessary resources of finances, persons, and materials needed to accomplish the church's mission.

When we take such joy in God and His glory, the Bible reminds us that God will give us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4). As you begin a new year, invite your church to pray with boldness and make big requests of God that bring Him glory. Amen!

Taken from Juan Sanchez. His latest book is ***The Leadership Formula: Develop the Next Generation of Leaders in the Church***.

## You're Allowed To Say Goodbye To Your Past

By Kristin Rattigan

Old friends we don't talk to. Old cities we used to live in. That life seems so far away now. And we're happy that it is. Sometimes you don't want to look back. Sometimes the only thing you can do is move forward and on.

The truth is, you're allowed to say goodbye to your past. You are years of experience that make you who you are. You can only grow from it. You're allowed to put memories in the back of your head. You're allowed to move on with your life. You can live a life so full that you don't miss your past. You're allowed to be happy.

You're free to create a new world. One that does not dwell on who you were five, ten, fifteen years ago. Because truth is, none of us stay the same. And who would want to anyways?

Maybe the past is supposed to be just that, a reminder. A reminder of who we once were. How far we've come. Some people live in the past, some may dwell, some move forward, and some try to forget it. None of us are right or wrong. We are all just doing the best we can. But sometimes in order to grow, we need to kiss the past goodbye. We need to let go of negativity. We need to accept what happened and move on. Sometimes the past just needs to be put in the past.

You are who you are because of it, but you are NOT your past. You're allowed to say goodbye to your past. Because that's all it is. The past. Make peace with it. Bury it. Let it go. Live.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy;  
O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

# Happy New Year 2021 Wishes

We hope that you find these messages uplifting!

Pass them on in texts, emails, or cards to help spread positivity and make everyone's 2021 much happier.



- ♥ Bid goodbye to last year with no regrets and start this new journey of hope and forgiveness.
- ♥ "In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short." Proverbs 24:14
- ♥ God gives us new beginnings every time, so we grow from what we've learned and get another chance to do what we left behind.
- ♥ "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ♥ May your new year come with a jar full of peace, prosperity, love, care, compassion, and success.
- ♥ When change is unavoidable, let this be the year of improvements.
- ♥ Another year is gone and are gone the shackles of past, insecurities, and regrets of last year. Take a deep breath and start fresh.
- ♥ Treat last year like fallen leaves from the tree of life. Rake them, bag them, and enjoy a fresh new year.
- ♥ "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it on my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:13
- ♥ Forget the past. The new year with new hopes is here.

