OUT OF TOWN: Please note that Fr. Matthew and Fr. Timothy attend the Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference in California, Monday through Wednesday of this week. Please contact the church office if you should need assistance.

CROSSROADS MINISTRY LUNCHEON with the students of ASA is tomorrow at 11:15am.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Please join us this Saturday, February 3 at 8:30 am for a meal, spiritual discussion and fellowship. No RSVP needed - just show up.

YOUTH CHOIR PRACTICE is planned for Saturday, February 3 at 4:00 pm. See you there!

WANT TO HOST MOMS' NIGHT OUT? If you would like to host one of these months—as a potluck at your home, a dinner out, dessert, or whatever you choose—contact Sam Marine at marine.samantha@gmail.com to sign up, or to be added to the invite list for Moms' Night Out. (ALL moms are welcome!)

JR. GOYA LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: If anyone has any ideas or resources for our youth to do service projects, please contact Shannon Rush.

MOMS 'N' TOTS MINISTRY: In an effort to minister more effectively to the moms in our parish, the Moms 'n' Tots Bible Study will be cancelled and replaced by a monthly gathering for moms of young children. More info to come.

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP at St. Nicholas Ranch - Session III, July 22-28 for ages 8-18 . Fr. Matthew will take a van from St. John and stay at camp for the week! (We hope to visit the relics of St. John of San Francisco.) Secure your spot with a $100 deposit, then pay the balance over the next six months: http://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp/. Don't let cost be a hindrance - see Fr. Matthew.

Be a persecutor of yourself, and your enemy will be driven from your proximity. Be peaceful within yourself, and heaven and earth will be at peace with you. Be diligent to enter into the treasury that is within you, and you will see the treasury of Heaven.

- St. Isaac the Syrian

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The mission of St. John the Baptist Church is to reach out and welcome all people to live an Orthodox Christian life, grow spiritually, and become disciples of Jesus Christ through serving others.

PC: Crosby/Lindgren/Walsh **Altar Servers Team B**: Christos, Nicholas, Nathan, Kyle, Makarios, Nicolas
Clean up Team 9: Perlmutter N&D, Powell, Reiter, Rush

St. John the Baptist
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Historical Christian Church

Rev. Father Matthew Swehla
Rev. Father Timothy Pavlatos
Deacon Innocent Duchow-Pressley

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January 28, 2018

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee • St. Ephraim the Syrian • St. Isaac the Syrian

Saint Ephraim was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia about the year 306. He practiced a severe ascetical life, increasing in holiness, until 363, the year in which Julian the Apostate was slain in his war against the Persian. Ephraim was ordained a deacon and went to dwell in Edessa, where he found a heresy promoted by a gnostic named Bardaisan, who had written many hymns propagating his errors, which by their sweet melodies became popular. Ephraim, having received from God a singular gift of eloquence, turned Bardaisan's own weapon against him, and wrote a multitude of hymns, which set forth the true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the contests of the martyrs. Ephraim penned a multitude of sermons, commentaries, and hymns. He was the first to make the poetic expression of hymnody and song a vehicle of Orthodox theological teachings, constituting it an integral part of the Church's worship. He may rightly be called the first great hymnographer of the Church, and was named the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." St. 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. Ephraim offered to distribute the wealth of the rich to those in need, and they agreed. He himself cared with his own hands for many of the sick from the famine, and so crowned his life with mercy and love for neighbor. Saint Ephraim reposed in peace in the end of the Fourth Century.

The great luminary of the life of stillness, Saint Isaac, was born in the early Seventh Century in Eastern Arabia, in present-day Qatar. He became a monastic at a young age and went to dwell with monks in Persia. He was consecrated Bishop of Nineveh, but after five months received permission to return to solitude. He spent many years far south of Nineveh in the mountainous regions of Beit Huzaye and at the monastery of Rabban Shabur. He wrote his renowned Ascetical Homilies toward the end of his long life of monastic struggle. The fame of his homilies grew quickly, and they were translated into Greek and spread throughout the monasteries of the Roman Empire, becoming a guide to the hesychasts of all generations thereafter.

WELCOME VISITORS to the original Christian Church. At St. John the Baptist you will experience the sacred worship of God as it has taken place for 2,000 years. Our community is a dynamic witness of authentic Christianity, and we welcome all people.

Please note that Holy Communion is reserved **only** for baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared—through prayer, fasting and regular Confession—to receive the Sacrament. However everyone may receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. If you have any questions about your experience here, please see our visitor's table during fellowship or speak with one of our clergy.

SMALL ENTRANCE HYMNS

Resurrectional Hymn (First Mode)
The stone had been sealed before Your tomb by the Jews and the soldiers guarding did watch o'er Your pure and sacred body; O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the giver of life. Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ, glory to Your kingdom, glory to Your dispensation, O You alone Who loves all.

Tu lithu sfragisthentos ipo ton Iutheon, ke stratioton filassonton to ahranton Su soma. Anestis triimeros Sotir, thorumenos to kosmo tin zoin, thia tuto e thinamis ton uranon evoon Si zoothota. Thoxa ti Anastasi Su Christe. Thoxa ti vasilia Su. Thoxa ti ikonomia Su, mone Filanthrope.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Second Mode)
The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since thou wast granted to baptize in the stream Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting to us great mercy.

Kontakion of the Meeting of our Lord (First Mode)
Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet, by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only Friend of man.

EPISTLE READING

Second Timothy 3:10-15
(Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee)
Timothy, my beloved child: Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:10-14 (Sunday of Publican and Pharisee):
The Lord said this parable: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The knowledge of God does not reside in a body that loves comforts.
– St. Isaac the Syrian

PARISH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 28
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM

Monday, January 29
Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference
Crossroads Ministry Luncheon 11:15 AM

Tuesday, January 30
Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Three Hierarchs 7:30 AM
Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference
No Bible Study

Wednesday, January 31
Metropolis Clergy Retreat
Basics of Orthodoxy: Orthodox Spirituality I 7:00 PM
Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 1
Great Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 6:30 PM

Friday, February 2
Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple 7:30 AM

Saturday, February 3
Men's Breakfast 8:30 AM
Youth Choir Practice 4:00 PM
Great Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 4
Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:45 AM
Sunday School/Theology 101 12:00 PM

Fast-Free Week