
TODAY'S ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

Sunday, June 24, 2018

The Nativity of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John Τὸ Γενέσιον τοῦ Προφήτου, Προδρομοῦ καὶ Βαπτιστοῦ Ἰωάννου

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – DISMISSAL HYMNS OF THE DAY

Apolytikion of the Third Tone 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 ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Let the Heavens rejoice; let the earthly things be glad; for the Lord has wrought might with His arm, He has trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead has He become. From the belly of Hades He has delivered us, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Nativity of John the Baptist Προφήτα καὶ Πρόδρομε, τῆς παρουσίας Χριστοῦ, ἀξίως εὐφημήσαι σε οὐκ εὐποροῦμεν ἡμεῖς, οἱ πόθῳ τιμῶντές σε· στεῖρωσις γὰρ τεκούσης, καὶ πατρὸς ἀφωνία, λέλυνται τῇ ἐνδόξῳ, καὶ σεπτῇ σου γεννήσει, καὶ σάρκωσις Υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, κόσμῳ κηρύττεται.

Apolytikion of the Holy Taxiarchs Τῶν οὐρανίων στρατιῶν Ἀρχιστράτηγοι, δυσωποῦμεν ὑμᾶς ἡμεῖς οἱ ἀνάξιοι, ἵνα ταῖς ὑμῶν δεήσεσι, τειχίσητε ἡμᾶς, σκέπη τῶν πτερυγῶν, τῆς αὐλοῦ ὑμῶν δόξης, φρουροῦντες ἡμᾶς προσπίπτοντας, ἐκτενῶς καὶ βοῶντας· Ἐκ τῶν κινδύνων λυτρώσασθε ἡμᾶς, ὡς Ταξίαρχαι τῶν ἄνω Δυνάμεων.

Supreme Commanders of the heavenly armies, we the unworthy beseech and implore you, that by your supplications you encircle us under the cover of the wings of your ineffable glory; guarding us who bow down with fervor crying: From dangers deliver us, as Leaders of the Powers above.

Apolytikion of St. Haralambos Ως στῦλος ἀκλόνητος, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Χριστοῦ, καὶ λύχνος ἀείφωτος τῆς οἰκουμένης σοφέ, ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπε, ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου, ἔλυσας τῶν εἰδώλων, τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ, διὸ ἐν παρόρῃσιᾳ Χριστῷ, πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

A pillar unshakable of the Church of Christ, and an ever-radiant lamp to the universe, were you, O wise Haralambos; you illumined the world through martyrdom; you dispelled the moonless night of the idols, O blessed one. Therefore with boldness before Christ, intercede that we may be saved.

KONTAKION ΤΗΣ ΗΜΕΡΑΣ – KONTAKION OF THE DAY

Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν ἀκαταίσχυντε, μεσιτεία πρὸς τὸν Ποιητὴν ἀμετάθετε, μὴ παρίδης ἀμαρτωλῶν δεήσεων φωνάς, ἀλλὰ πρόφθασον, ὡς ἀγαθὴ, εἰς τὴν βοήθειαν ἡμῶν, τῶν πιστῶς κραυγαζόντων σοι. Τάχυνον εἰς πρεσβείαν, καὶ σπεῦσον εἰς ἰκεσίαν, ἢ προστατεύουσα ἀεὶ, Θεοτόκε, τῶν τιμώντων σε.

HOLY TAXIARHAI AND SAINT HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Constantine P. Botsis, Proistamenos
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Fr. George Lamberis, Synefemerios
Nick Harisiadis, Protopsaltis

Week of June 24-July 1, 2018

The Nativity of Saint John the Forerunner and Baptizer of the Lord (Commemorated on June 24)

Six months before his appearance in Nazareth to the All-holy Virgin Mary, the great archangel of God, Gabriel appeared to Zacharias the high priest in the Temple at Jerusalem. Before he announced the miraculous conception to the unwed virgin (Mary), the archangel announced the miraculous conception to the childless old woman (Elizabeth). Zacharias did not immediately believe the words of the herald of God and this is why his tongue was tied with dumbness and remained as such until eight days after the birth of John.

On that day, the relatives of Zacharias and Elizabeth gathered for the young child's circumcision and for the sake of giving him a name. When they asked the father what name he wishes to give to his son and being dumb, he wrote on a tablet: "John." At that moment his tongue became loosed and he began to speak. The home of Zacharias was on the heights between Bethlehem and Hebron. The news of the appearance of the angel of God to Zacharias was spread throughout all of Israel, as well as of his dumbness and the loosening of his tongue at that moment when he wrote the name "John."

The news concerning this even reached Herod. Therefore, when Herod sent soldiers to slay the children throughout Bethlehem, he directed men to the hilly dwelling place of the family of Zacharias to kill John also. However, Elizabeth promptly hid the child. Enraged, at this King Herod sent his executioners to Zacharias in the Temple to slay him (for it happened that it was Zacharias' turn again to serve in the Temple of Jerusalem). Zacharias was slain between the court and the temple and his blood coagulated and petrified on the stone pavers and remained a perpetual witness against Herod. Elizabeth hid with the child in a cave where she died soon after. The young child John remained in the wilderness alone under the care of God and God's angels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Philoptochos of St. Haralambos invites you to join us at our Coffee Fellowship Hour after Today's church services!

PROSPHORA—We thank Mrs. Niki Klikas and Mrs. Tasia Farsalas, who have offered today's prospora. Next week, the prospora will be offered by Mrs. Pitsa Serigos (Sat, Jun 30), and by Mrs. Demetra Anastasiadis and Eugenia Bliamblias (Sunday, July 1).

MEMORIAL SERVICES TODAY

40 days—Jim Dravillas

Memorial services are offered for the forgiveness and eternal rest of persons who have fallen asleep in the Lord. There are some days when Memorials are not permitted—please call the church office before planning. Memorials take place at 40 days, at 6 months, at 1 year and at 3 years. After three years have passed, the departed are more properly remembered on the Saturdays of the Souls.

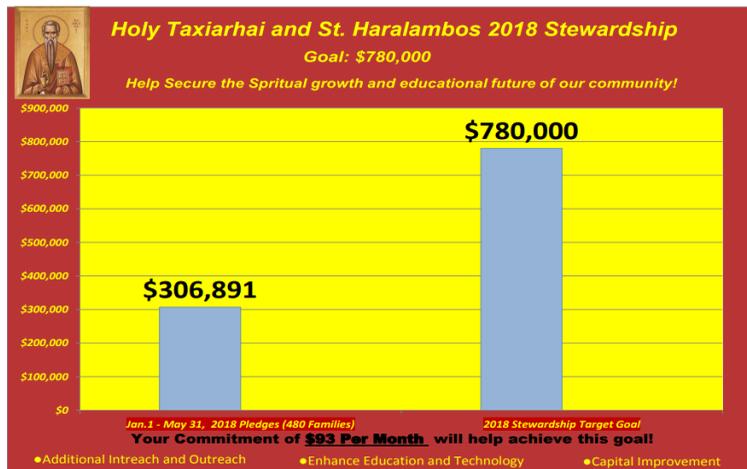
Please also remember that we have discontinued the custom of placing candles in the *kolyva*.

HOW TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION--Orthodox Christians in good standing are encouraged to receive Holy Communion, provided they have prepared themselves spiritually, mentally and physically. On the day of receiving Holy Communion, it is not proper to eat or drink anything before coming to church. After receiving, wipe your lips on the cloth, step back carefully, hand the cloth to the next person and make the sign of the Cross as you step away. Please do not to the Holy Chalice.

OUR SISTER PARISH of Ss. Peter and Paul in Glenview invites you to Great Vespers at 7:00 pm Thursday evening, June 28, and Divine Liturgy Friday morning, June 29 in honor of their Feastday. (Liturgy will NOT be celebrated at St. Haralambos on June 29.)

OUR SISTER PARISH of the Holy Apostles in Westchester invites you to Great Vespers at 7:00 pm on Friday evening, June 29 in honor of the Feastday of the 12 Holy Apostles. (Liturgy WILL be celebrated at St. Haralambos on Saturday, June 30!)

MISSION PROJECT—RECHARGEABLE LANTERNS FOR ORTHODOX SCHOOL CHILDREN IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA—One of the biggest educational obstacles in Ghana is undependable electricity. This means it is hard for our Orthodox school children to study and learn. For the second year, we are raising money to provide 500 rechargeable solar-powered lanterns for children and educators at the Orthodox Youth Camp in Ghana. Help us with your contribution! Our goal is \$5000. Checks can be made to St. Haralambos (note "Ghana Lights" on the memo line). Thank you!



STEWARDSHIP

UPDATE

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we would like to thank everyone for your continued support of St. Haralambos!

We have achieved 39% of our 2018 Financial Stewardship Goal. With our commitment to Christ and our dedication to His Church, we can continue toward achieving our goal.

Ανακουνώσεις

ΗΜΕΙΣ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ Η ΑΓΑΠΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ
STEWARDSHIP ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ 2018 έχει αρχίσει με εμβουσιασμό, και ευγνωμονούμε όλους που ήδη έχουν ανταποκριθή εφέτος! Ευχαριστούμε πάλι όσους υποσχέθηκαν να δώσουν \$93 το μήνα ή και περισσότερο!

Ο Άγιος Παύλος μας θυμίζει ότι όλοι καλούμεθα να πράξουμε ό,τιδήποτε με ολη την καρδιά μας. Τι αξία έχει ένα έργο όταν δεν έχουμε προσπαθήσει ολόψυχα; Τι αξία έχει μια σχέση όταν είναι επιφανειακή και ανειλικρινής; Τι αξία έχει η προσφορά μας στον Θεό αφού δεν είναι γνήσιο και ειλικρινές;

Θα έχετε λάβει τις πληροφορίες για το 2018 **Stewardship**. Με την ειλικρινή προσφορά σας προς το **Stewardship**, παρακαλούμε όπως ενδυναμώσετε την εκκλησία σας δια να μπορέσει να εξυπηρετήσει καλύτερα εσάς, την οικογένειά σας και όλους όσους χρειάζονται την βοήθειά μας!

ΠΟΙΟΙ ΔΥΝΑΝΤΑΙ ΝΑ ΛΑΒΟΥΝ ΘΕΙΑΝ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΝ - Όταν λαμβάνομεν Θείαν Κοινωνία η οποιοδήποτε από τα άλλα Μυστήρια εκφράζομεν την αποδοχήν μας εις τα δογματικά και ηθικά διδάγματα της Ορθοδόξου μας Εκκλησίας. Διά τούτο, μόνον Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί οι οποίοι είναι εντάξει απέναντι της Εκκλησίας δύνανται να λάβουν μέρος εις τα Μυστήρια, όπως Θεία

Κοινωνία και Ευχέλαιο, και δεν πρέπει να λαμβάνουν μέρος σε Μυστήρια σε μη Ορθόδοξες εκκλησίες. Διά οποιοδήποτε απορίες σας, παρακαλούμε να συζητήσετε με τον ιερέα σας.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ ΤΟΥ 2018--Το Φεστιβάλ της Κοινότητάς μας για το 2018 θα λάβει χώραν εις τις 13-15 Ιουλίου, και οι ετοιμασίες άρχισαν. Θα χρειαστούμε βοήθεια εις τον προγραμματισμόν, και πάντα ενδιαφερόμαστε για νέες ιδέες και καινούργιους εθελοντές! Εάν έχετε την ευχαρίστησιν να βοηθήσετε, παρακαλούμε τηλεφωνείτε το γραφείο της εκκλησίας (847-647-8880).

Ο ΠΡΩΤΟΣ ΛΑΧΝΟΣ θα είναι ένα καινούργιο αυτοκίνητο 2018 Audi A3 ή ένα καινούργιο HARLEY DAVIDSON ή \$20,000! Και χρειαζόμεθα την βοήθειά σας δια την πώληση των λαχείων. Οποιαδήποτε βοήθεια είναι πολύ, πολύ εκτιμητέα!

ΣΧΕΤΙΚΑ ΜΕ ΤΗΝ ΩΡΑ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΦΕ—Κάθε Κυριακή μετά το τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας διάφορες οργανώσεις της εκκλησίας προσφέρουν καφέ με σκοπό να μας δώσουν την ευκαιρία να γνωρίσουμε καλύτερα ο ένας τον άλλον. Προσκαλούνται όλοι να έχουν καφέ ή γλυκά ή κάποια φρούτα. *Παρακαλούμε όπως μετά το πέρας της ώρας του καφέ μην αφήσετε τα πιάτα και τα ποτήρια σας στο τραπέζι!*

Δια να διατηρηθή αξιοπρεπής η ακολουθία και δια να μην αποσπάμε την προσοχή των άλλων, σας παρακαλούμε όπως κρατάτε κλειστά τα κινητά σας τηλέφωνα.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Mon-Fri, June 25-29	Vacation Church School.....	9:00 am
Tues, Jun 26	Synergy meeting.....	7:30 pm
Wed, June 27	Food Fest Meeting.....	7:30 pm
Sat, June 30	Orthros and Liturgy (Twelve Apostles).....	8:30 am

OUR BIG GREEK FOOD FEST will take place this summer July 13-15. Plan to help!



Ὁ Ἀπόστολος τῆς Ἡμέρας

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα (Ῥωμ. ιγ' 11-14, ιδ' 1-4)

Ἀδελφοί, νῦν ἐγγύτερον ἡμῶν ἡ σωτηρία ἢ ὅτε ἐπιστεύσαμεν. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψεν, ἡ δὲ ἡμέρα ἤγγικεν. Ἀποθώμεθα οὖν τὰ ἔργα τοῦ σκότους καὶ ἐνδυσώμεθα τὰ ὄπλα τοῦ φωτός. Ὡς ἐν ἡμέρα εὐσχημόνως περιπατήσωμεν, μὴ κώμοις καὶ μέθαις, μὴ κοίταις καὶ ἀσελγείαις, μὴ ἔριδι καὶ ζήλῳ· ἀλλὰ ἐνδύσασθε τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, καὶ τῆς σαρκὸς πρόνοιαν μὴ ποιῆσθε εἰς ἐπιθυμίαν. Τὸν δὲ ἀσθενοῦντα τῇ πίστει προσλαμβάνεσθε, μὴ εἰς διακρίσεις διαλογισμῶν. Ὅς μὲν πιστεύει φαγεῖν πάντα, ὁ δὲ ἀσθενῶν λάχανα ἐσθίει. Ὁ ἐσθίων τὸν μὴ ἐσθίοντα μὴ ἐξουθενεῖτω, καὶ ὁ μὴ ἐσθίων τὸν ἐσθίοντα μὴ κρινέτω· ὁ Θεὸς γὰρ αὐτὸν προσελάβετο. Σὺ τίς εἶ ὁ κρίνων ἀλλότριον οἰκέτην; Τῷ ἰδίῳ Κυρίῳ στήκει ἡ πίπτει· σταθήσεται δέ· δυνατὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ὁ Θεὸς στήσαι αὐτόν.

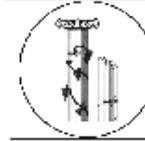
The Epistle Reading of the Day

EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:11-14:4

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.



THE ST. HARALAMBOS
BIG GREEK FOOD FEST OF NILES
JULY 13 - 14 - 15, 2018

Our Big Greek Food Fest takes place in **LESS THAN ONE MONTH!** Will you help?

- **HELP PUBLICIZE!** Distribute **POSTERS AND YARD SIGNS!**
- **HELP SELL RAFFLE TICKETS!** Have you bought yours? Can you help sell tickets?
- **DONATIONS!** One of the best ways to make our Fest successful is to keep our costs down. All donations are welcomed!
- **VOLUNTEER!**
 - ⇒ We need help to set up on Thursday, July 12
 - ⇒ We need Fest workers on July 13, 14 and 15. Complete a Volunteer Form!
 - ⇒ We need help for the "Great Day-After Clean-up" on Monday, July 16.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL begins tomorrow! This year's theme is "SHIPWRECKED!" All ages are welcome—parents, too! Don't let your children miss out!

A 2018! STEWARDSHIP REMINDER—

We are very grateful that so many have already made their 2018 commitment! As we look forward to the challenges of the year, we urge you to consider a *monthly* commitment of \$93. This is what is needed to cover our needs and it is realistic for most stewards!

If you have not yet made your 2018 commitment, please do so. There is no minimum, but true stewardship means we set a level of giving in proportion to our resources and income. Our stewardship level should be an amount that reflects our growing love of God and our appreciation for the blessings and benefits we derive from our Church!

WHAT IS STRONGYLI MEGISTIS? Strongyli Megistis is a very small but strategic Greek Island off the southern coast of Turkey, in an area where oil has been found under the sea bed. These are Greek waters, but Turkey challenges this claim and has sent naval ships to the area.

A special bottle of premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil with a label depicting the St. Nicolaos Chapel of Strongyli Megistis is being sold to raise money to publicize their plight. The bottle sells for \$12 and is available in the church office! Your support is appreciated and meaningful!

AREA FESTIVALS—Plan to visit and support the Greek Festivals of our sister churches:

TODAY:

Annunciation Cathedral-Chicago
Holy Cross—Justice, IL
St. Nectarios—Palatine
Kimissis of the Theotokos—Racine, WI

DEAR FRIENDS AND VISITORS: We are happy that you have come to worship with us, and hope that you have had a prayerful and uplifting experience. If you are visiting St. Haralambos or are new to our community, please seek out our ushers if you have any questions.

CHURCH ETIQUETTE:

Please understand that chewing gum in church is considered to be very discourteous and even vulgar. Your attention to this is greatly appreciated.

Be considerate! Please remove lipstick when reverencing the holy icons or receiving Holy Communion.

Please be careful when you receive Holy Communion that you do not bump the Holy Chalice and cause it to spill.

Please teach your children that it is not proper to play video games, eat snacks, chew gum or cross their legs in church.

Please turn off cell-phones and video games during Church services.

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον τῆς Ἡμέρας

Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν (Λουκ. α' 1-25, 57-68, 76, 80)

Ἐπειδήπερ πολλοὶ ἐπεχείρησαν ἀνατάξασθαι διήγησιν περὶ τῶν πεπληροφορημένων ἐν ἡμῖν πραγμάτων, καθὼς παρέδοσαν ἡμῖν οἱ ἀπ' ἀρχῆς αὐτόπται καὶ ὑπηρεταὶ γενόμενοι τοῦ Λόγου, ἔδοξε καμοί, παρηκολουθηκότη ἄνωθεν πᾶσιν ἀκριβῶς, καθεξῆς σοι γράψαι, κράτιστε Θεόφιλε, ἵνα ἐπιγνῶς περὶ ὧν κατηχήθης λόγων τὴν ἀσφάλειαν. Ἐγένετο ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις Ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως τῆς Ἰουδαίας, ἱερεὺς τις ὀνόματι Ζαχαρίας, ἐξ ἑφημερίας Ἀβιά, καὶ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῶν θυγατέρων Ἀαρῶν, καὶ τὸ ὄνομα αὐτῆς Ἐλισάβετ. Ἦσαν δὲ δίκαιοι ἀμφοτέρωθεν ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ, πορευόμενοι ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ἐντολαῖς καὶ δικαιομασίαις τοῦ Κυρίου ἀμεμπτοί. Καὶ οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τέκνον, καθότι ἡ Ἐλισάβετ ἦν στείρα, καὶ ἀμφοτέρωθεν προβεβηκότες ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις αὐτῶν ἦσαν. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἱερατεύειν αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ τάξει τῆς ἑφημερίας αὐτοῦ ἐναντι τοῦ Θεοῦ, κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἱερατείας ἔλαχε τοῦ θυμιάσαι εἰσελθὼν εἰς τὸν Ναὸν τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ πᾶν τὸ πλῆθος τοῦ λαοῦ ἦν προσευχόμενον ἔξω τῆς ὥρας τοῦ θυμιάματος. Ὡφθη δὲ αὐτῷ Ἄγγελος Κυρίου ἐστῶς ἐκ δεξιῶν τοῦ θυσιαστηρίου τοῦ θυμιάματος. Καὶ ἐταράχθη Ζαχαρίας ἰδὼν, καὶ φόβος ἐπέπεσεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. Εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸν ὁ Ἄγγελος· Μὴ φοβοῦ, Ζαχαρία, διότι εἰσηκούσθη ἡ δέησίς σου, καὶ ἡ γυνὴ σου Ἐλισάβετ γεννήσει υἱόν σοι, καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰωάννην. Καὶ ἔσται χαρὰ σοι καὶ ἀγαλλίασις, καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπὶ τῇ γενέσει αὐτοῦ χαρήσονται· ἔσται γὰρ μέγας ἐνώπιον τοῦ Κυρίου, καὶ οἶνον καὶ σίκερα οὐ μὴ πῖη, καὶ Πνεύματος ἁγίου πλησθήσεται ἔτι ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς αὐτοῦ, καὶ πολλοὺς τῶν υἱῶν Ἰσραὴλ ἐπιστρέψει ἐπὶ Κύριον τὸν Θεὸν αὐτῶν. Καὶ αὐτὸς προελεύσεται ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ ἐν πνεύματι καὶ δυνάμει Ἡλίου, ἐπιστρέψαι καρδίας πατέρων ἐπὶ τέκνα καὶ ἀπειθεῖς ἐν φρονήσει δικαίων, ἐτοιμάσαι Κυρίῳ λαὸν κατεσκευασμένον. Καὶ εἶπε Ζαχαρίας πρὸς τὸν Ἄγγελον· Κατὰ τί γνώσομαι τοῦτο; ἐγὼ γάρ εἰμι πρεσβύτης καὶ ἡ γυνὴ μου προβεβηκυῖα ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις αὐτῆς. Καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Ἄγγελος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἐγὼ εἰμι Γαβριὴλ ὁ παρεστηκὼς ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἀπεστάλην λαλῆσαι πρὸς σε καὶ εὐαγγελίσασθαι σοι ταῦτα. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἔση σιωπῶν καὶ μὴ δυνάμενος λαλῆσαι ἄχρι ἧς ἡμέρας γένηται ταῦτα, ἀνθ' ὧν οὐκ ἐπίστευσας τοῖς λόγοις μου, οἵτινες πληρωθήσονται εἰς τὸν καιρὸν αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἦν ὁ λαὸς προσδοκῶν τὸν Ζαχαρίαν, καὶ ἐθαύμαζον ἐν τῷ χρονίζειν αὐτόν ἐν τῷ Ναῷ. Ἐξελθὼν δὲ οὐκ ἠδύνατο λαλῆσαι αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἐπέγνωσαν ὅτι ὀπτασίαν εώρακεν ἐν τῷ Ναῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν διανεύων αὐτοῖς, καὶ διέμιανε κωφός. Καὶ ἐγένετο ὡς ἐπλήσθησαν αἱ ἡμέραι τῆς λειτουργίας αὐτοῦ ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα τὰς ἡμέρας συνέλαβεν Ἐλισάβετ ἡ γυνὴ αὐτοῦ· καὶ περιέκρυβεν ἑαυτὴν μῆνας πέντε, λέγουσα· ὅτι οὕτω μοι πεποίηκεν Κύριος ἐν ἡμέραις αἷς ἐπεῖδεν ἀφελεῖν τὸ ὄνειδός μου ἐν ἀνθρώποις. Τῇ δὲ Ἐλισάβετ ἐπλήσθη ὁ χρόνος τοῦ τεκεῖν αὐτήν, καὶ ἐγέννησεν υἱόν. Καὶ ἠκούσαν οἱ περίοικοι καὶ οἱ συγγενεῖς αὐτῆς ὅτι ἐμεγάλυνεν Κύριος τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ μετ' αὐτῆς, καὶ συνέχαιρον αὐτῇ. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῇ ὀγδόῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἦλθον περιτεμεῖν τὸ παιδίον, καὶ ἐκάλουν αὐτὸ ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ Ζαχαρίαν. Καὶ ἀποκριθεῖσα ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ εἶπεν, Οὐχί, ἀλλὰ κληθήσεται Ἰωάννης. Καὶ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτήν· ὅτι οὐδεὶς ἐστὶν ἐκ τῆς συγγενείας σου ὃς καλεῖται τῷ ὀνόματι τούτῳ. Ἐνένεον δὲ τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ, τό, τί ἂν θέλοι καλεῖσθαι αὐτόν. Καὶ αἰτήσας πινακίδιον ἔγραψε λέγων, Ἰωάννης ἐστὶν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ. Καὶ ἐθαύμασαν πάντες. Ἀνεψύχθη δὲ τὸ στόμα αὐτοῦ παραχρῆμα καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐλάλει εὐλογῶν τὸν Θεόν. Καὶ ἐγένετο ἐπὶ πάντας φόβος τοὺς περιουκούντας αὐτούς, καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ὄρεινῃ τῆς Ἰουδαίας διελαλεῖτο πάντα τὰ ῥήματα ταῦτα, καὶ ἔθεντο πάντες οἱ ἀκούσαντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῶν, λέγοντες, Τί ἄρα τὸ παιδίον τοῦτο ἔσται; καὶ γὰρ χεῖρ Κυρίου ἦν μετ' αὐτοῦ. Καὶ Ζαχαρίας ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ ἐπλήσθη Πνεύματος Ἁγίου καὶ ἐπροφήτευσεν λέγων· Εὐλογητὸς Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο καὶ ἐποίησε λύτρωσιν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ. Καὶ σὺ, παιδίον, Προφήτης Ὑψίστου κληθήσῃ· προπορεύσῃ γὰρ πρὸ προσώπου Κυρίου ἐτοιμάσαι ὁδοὺς αὐτοῦ. Τὸ δὲ παιδίον ἠῤῥαξεν καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο πνεύματι, καὶ ἦν ἐν ταῖς ἐρήμοις ἕως ἡμέρας ἀναδείξεως αὐτοῦ πρὸς τὸν Ἰσραὴλ.

Today's Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.