



**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of the British Isles and Ireland
St George's Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral**

Sundays 17 January - 04 February 2018

**Archbishop: Metropolitan Silouan Oner
Parish Priest: Archpriest Samir Gholam
Parish Deacon: Deacon Michael Touma**

**Newsletter Issue:
01/18**

Regular Services:

Saturdays: Vespers 16:30
Sundays: Matins 10:00
Liturgy 11:00

Orthodox Calendar:

22 January – Timothy the Apostle of the 70
23 January – Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra
25 January – Gregory the Theologian
28 January – Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, St Ephraim the Syrian
30 January – Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs: Basil, Gregory & Chrysostom
02 February – The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
04 February – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

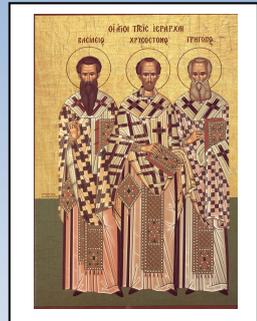
The Divine liturgy And Theophany 06/01/2018

The Theophany liturgy was held on Sunday 6th of January, it was a very joyful day, gathering all the parish. Happy Theophany.



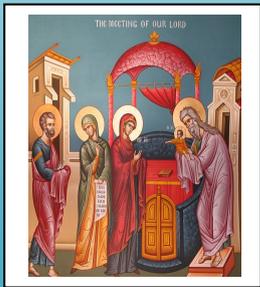
تذكار جامع للأقمار الثلاثة:

في زمن الامبراطور البيزنطي ألكسيوس كمينوس الأول (1081-1118) برز خلاف في كنيسة المسيح في القسطنطينية بين المعلمين واللاهوتيين، البعض منهم يقول أنّ باسيليوس الكبير يتقدم على القديسين يوحنا الذهبي الفم والقديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي، لأنّ باسيليوس الكبير هو أكثر الخطباء رفعةً وتفوقاً في الكلمة والعمل وغير متساهل في الإيمان ضد الهرطقات ومنظم الرهبانية وقائد الكنيسة برمتها. أما الفريق الثاني رفع شأن القديس يوحنا الذهبي الفم لأنه وجده أكثر الناس محبة وأكثرهم فهماً لضعف الطبيعة البشرية، كما أنه الخطيب الأعظم عبر مواعظه الفياضة. شرح الكلمة الإلهية وبيّن كيفية تجسيدها في الحياة اليومية بمهارة لا يضاهيه فيها أيّ من الأبوين.



أما الفريق الثالث فقد اعتبر القديس غريغوريوس اللاهوتي الشاعر المسيحي الممتاز أرفع من سواه لفصاحة لغته وصفائها وعمقها، وهو اذ ملك حكمة اليونان وبلوغتهم بلغ درجة من التأمل في الله لم يعرفها سواه ولم يعبر أحد غيره عن عقيدة الثالوث القدوس بمثل هذا السمو، وهو صاحب الخطب اللاهوتية الخمسة التي تعتبر أبرز الخطب الخاصة باللاهوت الأرثوذكسي وبسببها عرّف باللاهوتي. إثر ذلك تراءى القديسون الثلاثة للأسقف يوحنا موروبوس مجتمعين وقالوا له نحن متساوين أمام الله، لا انقسام بيننا ولا تعارض. للحال عمل الأسقف يوحنا على جمع المتخاصمين وسعى إلى وضع حد للخلاف فيما بينهم بتعيين عيد جامع للقديسين الثلاثة، لأنه كان لهم دوراً بارزاً جداً في تثبيت الإيمان الأرثوذكسي وتوضيحه في كنيسة المسيح، فقد سكن فيهم روح الرب ولهجوا بالكلمة الإلهية مما أمكنهم من دحض الهرطقة. تعيد الكنيسة للأقمار الثلاثة في 30 من شهر كانون الثاني، بشفاعتهم خلص أيها الرب نفوسنا.

The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior to the Temple:



When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke2:22-24, Exod.13:2; Lev.12:6-8).

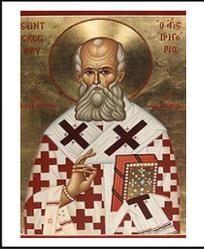
On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master...." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

Story and Lessons:

Pastor Jeremiah transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service, only 3 people out of the 10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food, but no one in the church gave him. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him. As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation: "we would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah". The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation, the homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with all eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders and paused for a moment, Then he recited:

"Then the king will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you to drink? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? "The king will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning, many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said: "Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will you decide to become disciples? **Being a Christian is more than something you claim, it's something you live. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).**



St Gregory the Theologian:

Saint Gregory is the great Father and Teacher of the Church, he was born in 329 in Arianzus, he first 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 not only his life but also his salvation since he had not yet been baptized, with tears and fervour he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to him, and the tempest gave way to calm. After his studies at Athens he became Basil's fellow ascetic living the monastic life together 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, this consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged.

In the year 379, he came to the assistance of the church of Constantinople, where he was elected Archbishop by the second Ecumenical Council which assembled there in 381 and condemned Macedonius the enemy of the Holy Spirit. From the Constantinople he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity called the Triadica.

His extant writings both prose and poems in every type of meter, demonstrate his lofty eloquence and his wondrous breadth of learning, he is considered to have surpassed the Greek writers of antiquity, and because of his God-inspired theological thought, he received the surname "Theologian".

Announcements:

Christ is Risen, Sunday 21st of January we would like to pray with you for the memorial of **Ibtissam karam**, (Rana Assaf Dahdouh Aunty) who past away early this month in Damascus, her memory be eternal.

A Holy liturgy, will be celebrated for The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Temple, on Thursday 1st February, 7 pm.

Church Pilgrimage to Greece, will take place from Monday 23 of April 2018 (with Easy Jet from London Gatwick to Athens at 5:45am) to Saturday 28 of April (Easy Jet From Thessaloniki to London Gatwick at 11:50 am). The programme contains Various hotels, visit to: the Acropolis, Syndagma Square, Hydra Island, Ayyina Island (St Nektarios), Meteora (one of the most important complexes of Orthodox Monasteries), Thessaloniki (church of St Demetrios, church of St Gregory), Souroti (tomb of St Paisios), A Ferry-Boat tour around Holy Mount Athos.

For more details and booking, Please get in touch by Emailing: suha_zarifa@hotmail.com

Fathers quotes:

"let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbour"

St Ignatius of Antioch

"I would rather die for Christ than rule the whole earth"

St Ignatius of Antioch

"Virtues are formed by prayer that preserves temperance, suppresses anger, prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to Heaven" **St Ephrem the Syrian**

"Let books be your dining table, and you shall be full of delights. Let them be your mattress, and you shall sleep restful nights" **St Ephrem the Syrian**

"It is better to choose a commendable war than peace which separates from God. The faith which I was taught by the Holy Fathers which I taught at all times without adjusting according to the times, this faith I will never stop teaching; I was born with it and I live by it"

St Gregory the Theologian

"Grace is given not to them who speak (their faith) but to those who live their faith" **St Gregory the Theologian**