



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Reverend Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*
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January 21, 2018

Volume III

Zacchaeus Sunday / Sunday after Theophany / Venerable Domnica of Constantinople (395)

9:20am - Canon of Theophany 9:30 - Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: **Gold**
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 / Ephesians 4:7-13 (Sunday after); Gospel: Luke 19:1-10 / Matthew 4:12-17
YOUTH Sunday / Panachida for +Charles Polivka (1 year anniversary) and for +Michael & +Olga Tongel (birthday remembrance)

SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Annual House Blessings Continue

*** **Schedule Change: Monday, January 22** – 9:30am Parastas

The Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia (259)	1 Peter 2:21-3:9	Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday	St. Gregory of Nyssa (395)	1 Peter 3:10-22	Mark 12:18-27
* Wednesday	Venerable Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch (529)	1 Peter 4:1-11	Mark 12:28-37
Thursday	Martyr Tatiana of Rome (226-235)	1 Peter 4:12-5:5	Mark 12:38-44
* Friday	Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus at Belgrade (315)	2 Peter 1:1-10	Mark 13:1-8
Saturday	St Nina (Nino), equal-to-the-Apostles, enlightener of Georgia (335)	2 Tim. 2:11-19	Luke 18:2-8

* *Let us imitate Christ and the Saints and fast as they did!*

Sunday, January 28 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee / St. John Calabytes (450)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: **Gold**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Add'l collection for our community outreach / A Fast Free Week

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! **Please join us downstairs** for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr.

Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

Wednesday, January 31 – 7pm Church Council Meeting

Thursday, February 1 – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios

Sunday, February 4 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Tuesday, February 6 – 9:30am Akathist to St Xenia of St Petersburg

Saturday, February 10 – 9:30am Divine Liturgy and Panachida for All Soul's Saturday (I)

Sunday, February 11 – Sunday of the Last Judgment / Meat Fare Sunday / Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund / Pre-Lenten Breakfast

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This Bulletin Is Offered:

If you wish to sponsor a Bulletin *In Memory of* someone or *In Honor of* (anniversary, birthday, new job, etc.), please do so by signing up on the sheet on the table in the Vestibule of the Church or by contacting Fr. Dave. An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

*** **Greeting Cards** – Please bring in and repurpose your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops. The collection box is in the vestibule for the *Holy Transfiguration Monastery*. Thank you for giving back!

Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.
(Luke 6:31)

- Bring in a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
- Take a Coffee Social week
- Offer your time to help with possible snow

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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am online. *Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy at Church, prepare, and receive the Eucharist.* When limitations occur, please consider taking the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web. Go to <http://www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/> to watch the live broadcast.



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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson.

"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Jr. in Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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Parastas – We will have a Parastas (*Memorial Service*) for all aborted babies on **Monday, January 22nd** at 9:30am. The Orthodox Church believes in the sanctity of life. Also, that life begins at conception. In the Gospel of Luke, we read of Mary's visit to Elizabeth when both were pregnant (with Jesus and John the Baptist): "For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (*Luke 1:44*) Let's gather in prayer on Monday morning.

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All-Souls Saturdays * Please note the schedule change below** – The All-Souls Saturday Liturgies and Panachidas for 2018 will be on **February 10th, February 24th (rescheduled), March 3rd, March 17th, and May 26th**. On these days, we especially pray for the departed loved ones of our families. If you are not working on a Saturday, come to church and pray with us, light a candle, and remember your departed loved ones. Please inform Fr Dave if there are any additions to be made to the Commemoration Diptychs from last year. The Offering Envelopes are available in the vestibule.

Coffee Social Steward Schedule

January 28: **Open "Pot Luck"**

February 4: **Lynn Mainolfi**

February 4: **Pre-Lenten Breakfast**

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Stewardship/Dues: \$ 554
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box: \$ 106
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special: \$ 433

Total Collections: \$ 1093

Collection for the Saints: "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper." 1 Cor 16:2

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2018 Theophany Home Blessings



Home blessings will take place from **Now thru February 18.**

It would be ideal if I were able to come between 9:30am and 4pm on a weekday. If this is not possible, some evening, Saturday and Sunday times will be available. Please let me know a preferred day and time that will work for you.

How to prepare for your house blessing?

- ✓ Have a white cloth placed on the table,
- ✓ with an icon and/or a cross,
- ✓ and a candle to be lit.
- ✓ please have a list of names of all those who live in the home (including your pets)
- ✓ and a list of the departed members of your family and friends you would wish to have remembered during the service.
- ✓ (*I will provide the Holy Water.*)

During the service, please have all televisions and radios turned off with cell phones placed on vibrate. I look forward to spending this time with you and your family! - Fr Dave

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



The International Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on **Saturday, February 3rd** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample 5 homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.*

Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits starting at 11:30. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: iocc.org/Pittsburgh

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Nun Domnica

Commemorated on January 21/8

The Nun Domnica came from Carthage to Constantinople during the time of the holy Emperor Theodosius the Great. Here she accepted Baptism from Patriarch Nektarios and entered a women's monastery. By means of strict and prolonged

ascetic effort she attained to high spiritual perfection. The saint healed the sick, demonstrated power over the natural elements, and predicted the future. By her miracles the saint moved inhabitants of the capital towards concerns about life eternal and the soul. Adorned by virtues, the saint expired from life a spotless virgin in her old age (+ 474).

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle for Sunday after Theophany: Eph. 4:7-13

⁷ But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

⁹ (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

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Epistle for Zacchaeus: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

⁹ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. ¹⁵ Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress

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Gospel for Sunday after Theophany: Mt. 4:12-17

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; ¹³ and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Caper'na-um by the sea, in the territory of Zeb'ulun and Naph'tali, ¹⁴ that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "The land of Zeb'ulun and the land of Naph'tali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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Gospel for Zacchaeus: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

LIVING ORTHODOXY

14 New Year's Resolutions for Orthodox Christians (3rd in a series)

From the Blog, *Roads from Emmaus*, by Fr Damick
[continued from last week] ...here are some suggestions for Orthodox Christians resolving to change for the better in the New Year, things every Orthodox Christian can do.

1. **get serious about coming to church (more)...**
2. **come to church on time...**
3. **tithe**
4. **pray at home.**

Even if all you do is say the "Our Father" when you wake up (saying it three times a day is the most ancient known prayer rule), you will notice a change in how you think and feel about your faith. It will become more present for you and will define you more.

Oh, and, parents? **It will have a huge impact on your kids.** Watching parents pray at home and (in time) joining them in that prayer is one of the biggest contributions that kids can receive toward their long-term spiritual viability.

If you don't bring the faith home, you can forget about it mattering in the long run, either for you or your kids.

5. **sing along at church. and stand more.**

The chanters are there to **lead you in prayer**, not to entertain you or pray instead of you. Yes, it is possible to pray with them silently, but there are few things more spiritually invigorating than singing your prayers. So if you're able, you should.

And while you're at it, why don't you **stand up** a bit more? It's certainly easier to sing while standing. And it's also the 2000-year-old tradition of the Orthodox Church to stand during worship. So there's that.

6. **memorize a psalm.**

Memorizing Scripture is a great thing for many reasons, but psalms are especially powerful, because they are all prayers. Pick your favorite one to memorize. Lots of Orthodox love Psalm 50 ("Have mercy on me, O God..."). But there are plenty to choose from. Pick a short one or a long one. Just make it your own. Try praying it every day.

7. encourage your priest.

Yes, he should be willing to do his job without getting any encouraging words. And many priests do. That wouldn't be so bad if they didn't get so many complaints. While some priests aren't constantly barraged with complaints, some never can seem to escape them, even while they pour their lives out for their people. And I would actually have to say that I probably get more complaints than I do encouraging words. My brother priests mostly say the same thing.

Your priest is a human being just like you are. And while he shouldn't live for praise, you can help him see that his hard work is appreciated by telling him so. Your job isn't to tell him that he shouldn't want praise—he has a father-confessor to tell him that. Your job is to love him. And saying encouraging things to him is part of that love. You don't have to shower him with compliments. Just tell him that what he's doing matters to you.

I have some people in my parish who say encouraging things to me. I don't live for their kind words, but they help to keep me going, because it reminds me that what I'm doing matters.

There is nothing better for a parish's health than an encouraged priest. If he feels like what he's doing matters, he will love doing it. And he will also strive to get better at it, too. So even if you do feel like he needs to improve, the best way to help him do that is to inspire him, not to complain at him.

8. invite someone to church.

Did you know that **82% of the unchurched say that they would come if invited?** Did you know that **only 2% of church members invite someone to church** in a given year? ([source](#))

If your parish is dying (and many Orthodox parishes in the US, especially in the Northeast, are indeed dying), don't you think it's time you invited someone to church? If your parish is healthy, don't you think it's time it gave birth to another healthy one?

Do you really believe that you've found the true faith, seen the true light and received the

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SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY

"Many spiritual interpretations express the universal significance of this encounter. St. Ambrose sees several parallels: (1) Zacchaeus being **short** is indicative of his being short on faith and virtue; (2) that Zacchaeus must ascend a **tree** shows no one attached to earthly matters can see Jesus; and (3) the Lord intending to **pass that way** reveals that Christ will approach anyone willing to repent and believe." – *Orthodox Study Bible, Luke 19:3,4*

MONDAY

"A Christian must be both soft and hard: soft with those who strive toward God, and diamond-hard with those who wish to lead him astray from God." +*Hieromartyr Daniel Sysoev*

TUESDAY

"A truly humble person never behaves like a teacher; he will listen, and, whenever his opinion is requested, he responds humbly. In other words, he replies like a student. He who believes that he is capable of correcting others is filled with egotism." +*St. Paisios*

WEDNESDAY

"Do not let difficulties, lack of understanding, and so on, overwhelm you, but live each day with trust in God, not worrying about the problems of the morrow." - *Bishop Nektary Kontzevitch*

heavenly Spirit, like you sing near the end of the Liturgy?

Then why are you keeping it to yourself? Think of at least one person you know who isn't in church. Make him or her a spiritual priority this year. Pray every day for that person. And when the time is right, give the invitation.



Statistically speaking, they are probably going to say yes.

And when you make the invitation, don't say, "You should come to church with me sometime." "Sometime" is no time. Say, "We're celebrating the Divine Liturgy this Sunday at 9am at my church. Can I pick you up and bring you with me?"

9. visit a monastery.

You won't believe how amazing monastic visits are until you go on one. There are few things that underline for us how much is really possible in the Christian life like visiting people who are actually making a go at being 24/7/365 Christians.

And don't you think that people who practice prayer that much might know a thing or two about it?

Monasteries aren't just for monks and nuns. They're for all Christians. They are not only spiritual havens but also spiritual powerhouses. And don't just visit once and say you did it. **Develop a relationship.**

And maybe if you're really blessed, one of your kids will join a monastery and pray for you a whole lot. I hope one of mine does.

To Be Continued With...

- 10. read the old testament...
- 11. attend an adult education class...
- 12. volunteer...
- 13. go to confession...
- 14. read a spiritual book...

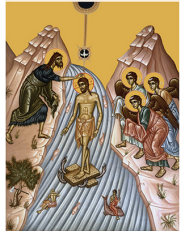
Source: <https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/roadsfromemmaus/2014/12/14/14-new-years-resolutions-orthodox-christians/>



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THURSDAY

"Most of us live outside our heart, and our mind is in a constant state of confusion. Some good thoughts may surface from time to time, but the majority will be harmful, and this destructive condition will prevail for as long as we continue to ignore our heart...The prayers of a fragmented mind have neither clarity nor depth, but a mind that is reunited with the heart overflows with humble prayer and has such strength that it reaches the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." - Archimandrite Zacharias of Essex



FRIDAY

"Battle against self-love with silence. The Devil most often destroys people through vanity. In earthly delights is hidden the poison of perdition." - Archbishop Seraphim (Sobolev) of Bogucharsk

SATURDAY – LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY

"You have appeared today to the inhabited earth, and Your light, O Lord, has been marked upon us, who with knowledge sing Your praise. You have come, You are made manifest, the Light that no man can approach." – Kondak for the Feast of Theophany

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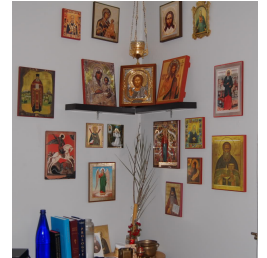
PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs *



A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Mildred, Anna Mae, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Mark, Viola, Juliana, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Fredrick, Helen B., Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, Mary, Michael ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Ameer, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia, *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*



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Birthday Prayers for... Kathy Schrmack (1/22), *Father's niece*, Abigeal Verbanick (1/22), Thomas Lorenzi (1/23), Mary Ann Brady (1/26), Fr Frank Miloro (1/26), Roberta 'Bobbie' Kruchkevich (1/27) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Nicole & Seminarian Nathaniel and Kristyn & Seminarian Vince ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.*

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For Expectant Mothers... Pañi Ileana, Ameer, Ashley, Katie, Meredith, Brittany, Harmonie ...*through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK:

The Canon of the Theophany of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Ode 1: The Lord, powerful in battle, separated the foundations of the sea and led His servants across on dry ground. But, He covered their enemies with the waters, for He is covered with glory.

Ode 3: The Lord, Who bestows powers to Kings and raises up the strength of His Anointed, is born of a Virgin and now draws near for baptism. Therefore, let us the faithful, cry out: "No one is as holy as our God, and no one is as righteous as You, O Lord."

Ode 4: O Lord, he whom You have called the voice of one crying in the wilderness, heard Your voice when you thundered upon the waters, bearing witness to Your Son. Having been filled with the spirit he cried out: "You are Christ! The Wisdom and Power of God."

Ode 5: Jesus, the Prince of Life, has come to set free Adam, the first created, and although as God he has no need of cleansing, for the sake of the fallen human race He is cleansed in the Jordan. He destroyed the enemy in the waters and grants the peace that is beyond all understanding.

Ode 6: The voice of the Word, the candlestick of the Light, the morning Star, and Forerunner of the Sun, proclaimed in the wilderness to all peoples: "Repent and be purified while time still remains. For behold, Christ is at hand the One Who delivers the world from corruption."

Ode 7: As they walked about in the fiery furnace, the three youths were preserved from all harm by the presence of an angel of God, strengthened with these helps, they greatly cried out: "Blessed are You and praised above all God of our Fathers."

Ode 8: As the Babylonian furnace poured forth dew, it prefigured a wondrous mystery: How the Jordan received in its streams the Immaterial Fire and encircled the Creator when He was baptized in the flesh. All you faithful, glorify and praise Him above all forever.

Ode 9: Every tongue is at a loss to give you proper praise. Even a spirit from on high is overcome when it seeks to sing your praises, O Mother of God. But since you are good, accept our faith. For you know well our love inspired by God. For you are the Protectress of Christians and we magnify you.