

Virginia Council of Churches
Week Two – 2nd Sunday of Advent

One of the greatest achievements in my life was attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in 1982. Everyone is aware of the Boy Scout Motto, “Be Prepared”. How often do we find ourselves unprepared from the hurdles that come our way? How much time should we set aside in preparing for what could possibly come our way, verses not setting aside any time which much too often results in situations that can be seen as being crucial.

The Orthodox Church celebrates the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for infants as a remembrance of when infants were being baptized during the earliest days of the Church as we see references in the Acts of the Apostles and Saint Paul’s First letter to the Corinthians. What a special relationship the infant will develop with his or her Godparents as these people assist along with the child’s parents in raising the child as a Soldier of Christ.

In Mark 1:1-8 we see a focus on the ministry of Saint John the Baptist as we hear, “Prepare the way of the Lord make His paths straight.” The path that we walk begins with our Baptism into the Church and as a road that is straight and easy to follow, we must be prepared to travel along the roads that contain detours and potholes. It is in these situations that we, with preparedness, will be able to travel to our ultimate destination, union with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

How are we preparing the future leaders of the Church to take our places and “Do what needs to be done?” Do we want to be labeled as the generation that did not make the Church better, or the generation who left the Church in a situation that needs more attention?

Saint John the Baptist prepared us for the coming of the Lord, he paved the road so that we would understand the ministry of the Lord. As we will celebrate the Nativity of our Lord in a few weeks may we pave the road as the examples for Christ, shining the light on a road that might not be straight, or would be lacking the necessary light of understanding the purpose of our Lord’s earthly ministry.

The Holy Baptism that we accepted made us put on Christ. May we all walk the walk in this upcoming New Year and as a family be united in making our community a better place, focused on Christ and His Holy Church.

PRAYER

May our Lord who was Baptized by John for our salvation be our guiding light in a world that sometimes seems so dark but contains the brightness of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN



Rev. George Chioros is the Pastor of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek orthodox Church in Newport News, Virginia since 1999. He currently serves as a member of the Coordinating Cabinet for the Virginia Council of Churches representing the Greek orthodox Churches of Virginia. Father George received the Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities in 2020 and serves on the Board of Directors for the Peninsula Chapter. Father George now serves as President of the Clergy for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey. Father George is married to his wife Flora who is the Assistant Director of Planning for the City of Newport News. They have one son, Constantine.