

fear the spiritual and other difficulties. In order for us to live the miracle of love, asceticalness, repentance, victory over the desires that separate us from God and our fellow man are needed. And then we are able to also belong very eagerly to those who love God who appeared. Keeping His commandments, we make Him our life.

The great feast of Theophany is a struggle of life. Of rediscovering a way that seems difficult, but gives us true joy, which sanctifies our own self, our fellow men and the whole world. So that the divine Epiphany has meaning for us!

Fr.T. M

**WE WISH WITH OUR WHOLE SOUL FOR 2021 A FULLNESS OF JOY  
AND PEACE,**

**AN ABUNDANCE OF HOPE, UNQUENCHING POWER TO RESIST,  
AND CREATION IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,  
WORD AND ACTION OF LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW MAN AND  
CREATION**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 03, 2021 SUNDAY BEFORE EPIPHANY ,**  
*Malachi the Prophet , Gordios the Martyr of Caesarea , Forefeast of the  
Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ , Righteous Genevieve of  
Paris, Righteous Peter of Atroas, Righteous Akakios the Wonderworker,  
Righteous Thomais of Lesbos*

**TONE OF THE WEEK** : *Plagal First Tone*

**EOTHINON** : *Eighth Eothinon*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8*

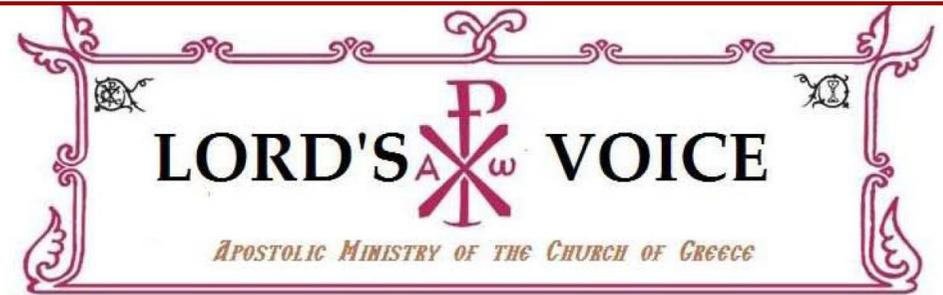
**GOSPEL READING** *Mark 1:1-8*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021 SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*Gregory of Nyssa , Dometian, Bishop of Melitene , Theosebia the Deaconess,  
sister of Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa, Markianos, Priest and  
Oikonomos of the Great Church*

**EPISTLE READING** : *St. Paul's Letter to Ephesians 4:7-13*

**GOSPEL READING** *Mark 4:12-17*



**69<sup>TH</sup> YEAR JANUARY 3 2021 PAMPHLET # 01 (3527)**

## A DIFFERENT MIRACLE

We people often in our life seek a miracle. We want God to prove His existence, giving us the capability of living an event that surpasses the natural measures, but also human achievements and our foreknowledge, mainly in the matter of health and life. And because usually, this miracle does not happen, we become disappointed, resulting in us rejecting or even being indifferent to God's appearance. The Apostle Paul, however, writing to his disciple Timothy, notes that the miracle that we seek, does not necessarily have to do with all that we consider important, but with all that God offers to whoever awaits His coming with love.

### The love of God

So instead of us awaiting a miracle, which will prove God's presence in the world, Paul urges us to love "his appearance", his revelation (2 Tim. 4:8). To accept with much faith, His love for us, as this was expressed with His incarnation, but also with His appearance in the world, through the event of His Baptism in the Jordan River, with which He proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom of God to the world and He inaugurated a new manner of life.

## **THE SUNDAY EPISTLE (2 TIMOTHY 4:5-8)**

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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A miracle is God's love for us. The miracle is that we seek His love in all the moments of our life, the pleasant and the difficult ones. A miracle is that we respond in our turn also, showing that we love the God who appeared. There are three main ways of responding: the good struggle, the completion of the road and the keeping of faith.

### **The good struggle and the path of the perfect ones**

Good is the struggle against the passions. Good is the struggle of obtaining virtue. The struggle of repentance for sins. The struggle of love. The struggle of seeking and finding the providence of God in every moment of our life. The struggle of patience in trials. The struggle of supporting others. The struggle of the evangelization of people, with the power of our whatsoever gifts. The struggle of prayer, especially there where our gifts do not suffice.

Our road finishes, makes us perfect in Christ, when we have patience. When we do not deny our crosses. When we entrust ourselves to the will of God in whatever we do. When we pose holiness as the aim of our life and we try through the gospel to fight for it. We complete the road, when we do not settle down. When we

do not boast for whatever has been given to us, or for whatever we managed to do with our toils to succeed, but that certainly has not been achieved, without God's help. When we defeat the fear of

death. When love floods the innermost depths of our being and we are able to forgive. When we meet with others, and we are able to see them as images of God and our brothers, and not as those who will serve our own advantages, even if this path is accompanied by pain, because often we will feel the injustice and the unsatisfactoriness of our choices, on the part of others. And, of course, we finish the path not in this life, but in the perspective and our participation in the Kingdom of God!

### **Keeping the faith**

We keep the faith when we choose to live in the Church and according to her teaching. When the gospel is for us the only truth of life, because it reveals the person of Christ and His love for us. When we confess this conviction of ours with our words and works. When we do not seek miracles but accept the great and strange miracle of our renewal and of the world's, by our Lord.

Christ entered into the streams of the Jordan River in order to show man and the world this triptych. That just as He Himself would struggle against whatsoever temptation, thus we should also. That just as He would show humility, accepting to be baptized by the hand of the Forerunner, thus we are also called to follow the humility that He seeks from us. That just as He Himself showed with His works and words that He is the truth, thus we also should choose to live truly, without fear of the tempter, but with hope in God, in the person of our Christ.

For all these things, hardship is needed. We were called to not