



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 3, 2010

Please Remember in Prayer

Bill Parrish, Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy Parrish, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Steven, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy Paul Duker, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T. Requests? Let Fr. John know.



The 2010 Calendars and Pocket Planners

from St. Tikhon's are in. Calendars are \$3.50 a piece and pocket-planners are \$2.50. We have ordered extras so you may purchase them even if you didn't order any.

The 2010 Liturgical / Educational Calendar

is available for viewing on our parish website. Just go to our website and click "Service Schedule", then select the month you would like to see. The entire 2010 calendar year is available. Be sure to check the Sunday bulletin for changes to the schedule. Questions? Please see Fr. John.



The Parish Council

will meet on Sunday, January 10th, in preparation for the 2010 Annual Meeting the following week.

Annual Meeting of the Parish

will be on Sunday, January 17th, following the coffee hour. All parishioners are asked to please set aside this day, making a special effort to be in attendance. While everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, voting privileges are reserved for those who are official members of the parish.



Development of Lay Ministries

One of our focuses for 2010 will be the further development of lay ministries. Currently, lay people in our parish serve in many capacities, including but not limited to: altar servers, choir members, readers, ushers, parish council and finance committee members, auditors, donors / financial stewards, facility cleaners, seamstresses, transportation providers, fundraiser initiators, photographers, coffee hour providers, church school teachers and press coordinators. This list is by no means exhaustive, and it does not include the more intangible things like prayerful intercession, contacting those who haven't been around for a while, etc.. If you have interest in offering your time, talent, or treasure to the Church, please see Fr. John. Each one of us have unique gifts from God. Let us use them to His glory!

Suggestions for 2010

Do you have any suggestions or requests for 2010? More services, classes, charitable events, etc.? Perhaps you would like to suggest a time change in the schedule? We are always looking for ways to improve our Church life. Please don't hesitate to let Fr. John know.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
St. Basil's Bread
Coffee Hour

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:00p.m. Compline;
Blessing of Water

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6TH

THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00p.m. Great Vespers

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7TH

OLD CALENDAR CHRISTMAS

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9TH

5:00p.m. Orthodoxy 101
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
Parish Council Meeting

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 10th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, Jan. 17th

Jodi McElwee





Commemoration Lists

All parishioners are asked to update the list of names, both living and departed, they have submitted for commemoration at the Divine Liturgy. The lists of names can be found at the ushers' stand for the next two weeks. Questions? Please ask Fr. John.

Gifts For Sale

For a limited time, there are small yet very elegant artistic items for sale in the back of the church. These gifts are handmade. Proceeds will go to our building fund. Many thanks to the donor, and those of you who will purchase these items!

House Blessing

It is the custom among many Orthodox Christians to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on or after Theophany (the feast which commemorates the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan River). If you would like your home blessed, please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the church. If you have any questions about the purpose or order of how the service is done, please see below or ask Fr. John.

House Blessing: The Purpose

The annual blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We again ask Christ to bless and enter into our homes and our lives. We ask Him to be with us, as we desire to be with Him. We ask that by the sprinkling of blessed water, the Holy Spirit renew us, our families and our lives in our homes. As Christ brought salvation to the house of Zacchaeus; we ask for the same for all dwelling in our homes.

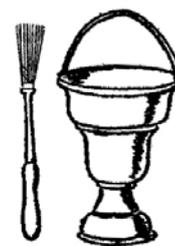
House Blessing: The Order

The house being cleaned and ready, we dress in an honorable manner (as we would for church). When the priest arrives, we greet him at the door, having turned off any radio, TV, or other noise based element. Animals that may cause disruption by being startled by the sprinkling water should be placed out of the way. On a small table before icons, a small but wide-mouthed bowl full of newly blessed water is placed. Together with a list of names of those who reside in the home, a lighted candle and censor (if you have one) are also placed on the table. These items are arranged prior to the arrival of the priest. At the beginning of the service for the blessing of the home, a family member leads the priest throughout the home, carrying the lighted candle. The rest of the household follows and then returns to the table for the final prayer and blessing with water upon those present.



FROM THE PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF WATER

O King, Who loves mankind, be present now as Thou wast at the Jordan through the coming of Thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water. And confer upon it: the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a forgiveness of sins, a protection against disease, a destruction of demons, inaccessible to evil powers and filled with angelic strength; that all who draw from it and drink of it may have it: for the cleansing of their soul and body, for the healing of their passions, and for the sanctification of their homes, and for every purpose that is fitting.



THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

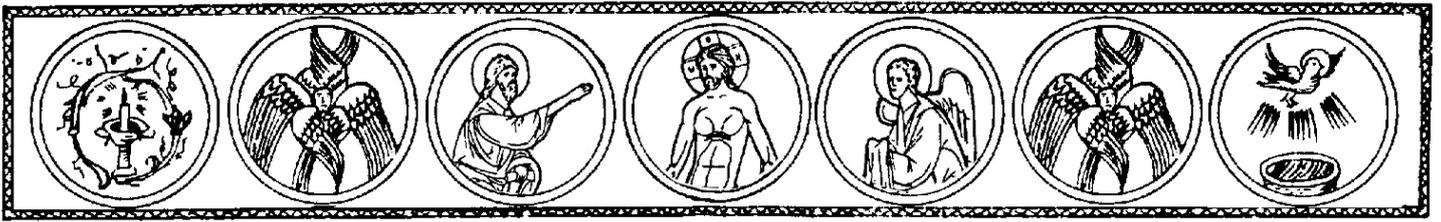
The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

- ❖ The Mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed.
- ❖ Christ blessed the water, making it holy; water for our renewal and regeneration.
- ❖ A model of Baptism was established for the followers of Jesus Christ, so that they could have their sins washed away and be freed from the tyranny of demons.
- ❖ The Forerunner, St. John the Baptist was blessed by Christ.

The word **Theophany** (meaning manifestation of God) comes from the apostolic passage, "God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

Another name for the Feast is **Epiphany** (meaning manifestation from above), "the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11). A third name is the "Feast of Lights", as Christ reveals Himself as the "Light of the World" (John 8:12).





The Theophany of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ Celebrated on the 6th Day of the Month January

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by the St John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine "those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death" (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of St Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and St Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

Troparion - Tone 1

When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan the worship of the Trinity was made manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee and called Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee!

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. St John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but "to bury human sin by water," to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify "the nature of water" and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.



On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

Translation by Fr. Stephen Janos from the "Reference Book for Clergy-Server"

Kontakion - Tone 4

Today Thou hast shown forth to the universe, and Thy light O Lord has shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee. Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light unapproachable.

