



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 1, 2012

Welcome Visitors

We warmly welcome all those who are visiting us today. It is good to have you all with us!

2012 St. Tikhon's Calendar Update

The calendars have arrived! Please be sure to pick up the calendars you ordered in the back of the church. Thank you for your patience!



Fasting from Christmas to Theophany?

During the twelve days of Christmas, Dec. 25th, through Theophany, Jan. 6th, we do not fast, even on Wednesday and Fridays. A one day fast is observed on January 5th, the Eve of Theophany. As Theophany falls on a Friday this year, we do not observe a fast on this day.

Matching Donation Closes Today – January 1st

Today, January 1st, is the last day for the \$5,000 Matching Donation for the Members of the Mission. We still have \$3,504 to go. Pledges will be accepted as well as donations. This is an opportunity to *double* our fundraising for the renovations necessary to move to our new property. Let us do our best to respond to this invitation!

Blessing of the Atlantic Ocean – Saturday, Jan. 14th

On Saturday, January 14th, we will join St. George's Greek Orthodox Church for their annual Blessing of Waters, served at the Atlantic Ocean. The divine services will be led by Met. Evangelos of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Matins and Divine Liturgy will begin at 8:30am. The Blessing of Waters will take place at 12:30pm. All invited! For more information, please see Fr. John.

Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 22nd

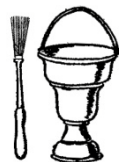
will be held to finalize preparations for the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 29th

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. Everyone is asked to please set aside this date for this important meeting.

House Blessing

If you would like your home blessed this year, please put your name on the sign-up sheet at the candle stand. This short service brings God's blessing to the home and all who dwell therein.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Circumcision of Our Lord St. Basil the Great

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:00pm Compline;
 Blessing of Water

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH

Old Calendar Christmas
 10:00am *Divine Liturgy*
 @ Whaleyville, MD
 6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH

Sunday After Theophany

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 8th

Bruce Eckerd

Sunday, Jan. 15th

Gabriela Jones



Prayer List: Fr. Michael Mihalick, Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Kelly Elizabeth & child, Bill Parrish, Fazealle, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle, Ryan & Kayla, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Garrett Cuppels, Jane Koshutko, Nicholas & Linda, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Troy Duker, Mary Miranda, Bruce, Stella, Lilly Barnett, Amy F., Nedelina, Henrietta Stack, & John Nakajima (departed)

OPERATING THRU 12/11/30/11			DECEMBER OPERATING			BUILDING FUND MATCHING DONATIONS		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Difference	20K (Everyone)	5K (Parish)	5K (Friends)
50,053	62,898	-12,845	3,382	4,484	-1,102	20,000!	1,496	13,395!

EXPERT: TIM TEBOW OVERSHADOWING SEVERAL OF NFL'S OTHER RELIGIOUS PLAYERS

By Ben Maller from *thepostgame.com*

Tim Tebow has become the poster boy for religious devotion in the National Football League, but other stars have largely flown under the religion radar.

The managing editor at Patheos, a website devoted to religious issues, told USA Today that Tebow may not even be the most vocal Christian on the Broncos. "It is odd that there are more outspoken Christians on the Denver Broncos like Brian Dawkins. It is odd that Tebow has become this figure," Patton Dodd told the national newspaper.

Pittsburgh Steelers star Troy Polamalu is most often mentioned by fellow players for his spiritual devotion, according to Dodd, who authored *The Tebow Mystique*. Polamalu, famous for his long hair and huge hits, actually prays during the action.

"I often think about Troy Polamalu, who you will hear Pittsburgh Steelers players say is the most religious athlete in football," Dodd told USA Today. "He crosses himself before every play and sometimes after. He prays during plays."

Polamalu, 30, one of the NFL's hardest hitters, has won two Super Bowls with the Steelers and has been to six Pro Bowls. Born Troy Benjamin Aumua, he legally changed his name to his mother's maiden name of Polamalu, which he had gone by for 15 years following his parents' divorce.



On a quest for religious guidance, Polamalu decided on becoming an Orthodox Christian after spending four days living with monks in a monastery on Mount Athos, a peninsula in Greece.

The Steelers star convinced his wife to convert to Orthodox Christianity in 2007, the same year he took a religious pilgrimage to Orthodox Christian locations in Greece and Turkey. Polamalu named both his children (Paisios, and Ephraim) after legendary Greek Orthodox Christian Saints.

"Football is part of my life but not life itself," Polamalu says. "Football doesn't define me. It's what I do [and] how I carry out my faith."

While Tebow, the son of missionaries, lives the evangelical Christian life, the Steelers star said in an interview that he's cautious not to push his religious beliefs onto strangers.

"It can lead to resentment, and that is not what you want," Polamalu said. "There is also a sense of arrogance sometimes when people are really hearty, evangelizers, and that is opposite of what faith is. Like, 'I know this better than you.' There are a lot of pitfalls to that."

Both Polamalu and Dawkins were named to the NFL's All-Decade Team for the 2000s.

THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

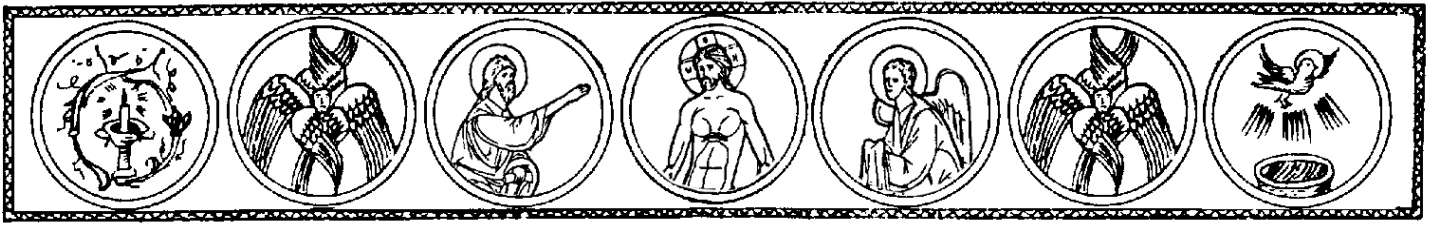
The Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River reveals wondrous salvific events:

- ❖ 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.



IOCC ANNOUNCES 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BALTIMORE, MD [IOCC]

International Orthodox Christian Charities [IOCC], the global humanitarian relief organization of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, will celebrate two decades of philanthropic service at a Washington, DC spring gala gathering of "who's who" from IOCC's past, present and future.



IOCC 20th Anniversary Gala will take place the evening of May 8, 2012 to celebrate its milestone with the theme, "Respond. Rebuild. Uplift." The Honorable Paul Sarbanes, former US Senator of Maryland, and the Honorable Andrew Natsios, former administrator of the US Agency for International Development, will serve as honorary chairmen of the gala. Under the leadership of IOCC Board Trustee and Event Chairman, John Sitalides, IOCC is assembling an unprecedented lineup of key personalities to represent the organization's beginnings, current efforts and forward plans as well as to participate in a special presentation of the inaugural Compassion at Work award.

The gala festivities will begin with an afternoon congressional reception hosted by Orthodox Christian members of Congress at the US Capitol building, followed by a VIP cocktail reception and banquet dinner at the Capital Hilton Hotel.

The inaugural Compassion at Work award will also be introduced at the 20th Anniversary Gala dinner. The humanitarian award recognizes extraordinary support for IOCC's mission.

"The gala will also afford Orthodox Christians throughout the United States multiple sponsorship opportunities in support of IOCC's ongoing mission," says Sitalides, "to provide emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthen the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond."

Since 1992, IOCC has worked throughout the world to deliver more than \$370 million in emergency aid and development assistance to families in more than 40 countries. IOCC enjoys an exceptional record of stewardship, with 92% of all resources directly reaching those in need, through programs such as health kits and education for war refugees, agricultural development for sustainable food supplies, vocational training and diseases awareness programs, and medical, hospital and pharmaceutical deliveries for the ailing. IOCC is a member of InterAction, a coalition of US based non-governmental organizations that carry out humanitarian assistance programs overseas, and the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and relief agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy.



ON HONORING GOD

St. John Chrysostom "On the Gospel of St. Matthew"

Do you wish to honor the Body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold. He who said, "This is my body," and made it so by his word, is the same who said, "You saw me hungry and you gave me no food. As you did it not to the least of these, you did it not to me." Honor him then by sharing your property with the poor. For what God needs is not golden chalices but golden souls.



JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 1/15 Richard & Diane Evanusa
- 1/24 Michael & Nada McFarland

Birthdays:

- 1/5 Constantine Mitsopoulos
- 1/12 Nada McFarland
Alex Royal
- 1/13 Francis Abdow
- 1/19 Howard Peters
- 1/26 Fr. Christian Lesinsky

Namesdays:

- 1/1 *St. Basil the Great*
Basil Cook
- 1/3 *St. Genevieve of Paris*
Jenny Barbarita
- 1/10 *St. Gregory of Nyssa*
Lee Gregory Krempel
- 1/25 *St. Gregory the Theologian*
Gregory Boris