



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF JANUARY 6, 2013

### Welcome Visitors!

We are very pleased to have you with us today! Please consider staying after the service for fellowship at our coffee hour in the hall.

### The Great Blessing of Water

will immediately follow the Divine Liturgy today. Texts for the service are available at the candle stand. The servers will assist pouring the holy water into vessels for your home.



### House Blessing



It is the custom among Orthodox Christians to have their homes blessed with the holy water sanctified on or after Theophany. 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 please ask Fr. John.

### Parish Council Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>

will/should be brief and only to prepare for the annual meeting

### Annual Meeting – Sunday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>

The 2013 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour. All full-time and part-time members, as well as visitors to the Mission are asked to attend.

### The March for Life in Washington – Friday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>

This annual event mourns the legalization of abortion in 1973 and affirms the sanctity of human life at all stages of development. All Orthodox Christians are encouraged to attend. More details on page two of this bulletin.



### Stewardship Envelopes for 2013

If you haven't yet picked up your envelopes for 2013, please do so at the usher's stand. There are envelopes available for everyone.



### The 2013 Calendars and Pocket Planners

from St. Tikhon's are in. Calendars are \$5.00 a piece and pocket-planners are \$4.00. We have ordered extras so you may purchase them even if you didn't order any.

### The 2013 Directory Sign-up Sheet

is for everyone associated with the Mission in any fashion, both parishioners and friends. Please be sure that you are not only listed in the draft copy at the candle stand but also that your information is full and accurate.



### SUNDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>

#### Theophany of the Lord

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

- 8:40a.m. Hours
- 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
- Blessing of Water
- Coffee Hour

### MONDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>

#### Old Calendar Christmas

10:00a.m. Divine Liturgy @ Holy Trinity, Whaleyville, MD

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>

- 5:00p.m. No Class
- 6:00p.m. Vespers

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

#### Sunday After Theophany

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

### READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>

Bruce Eckerd

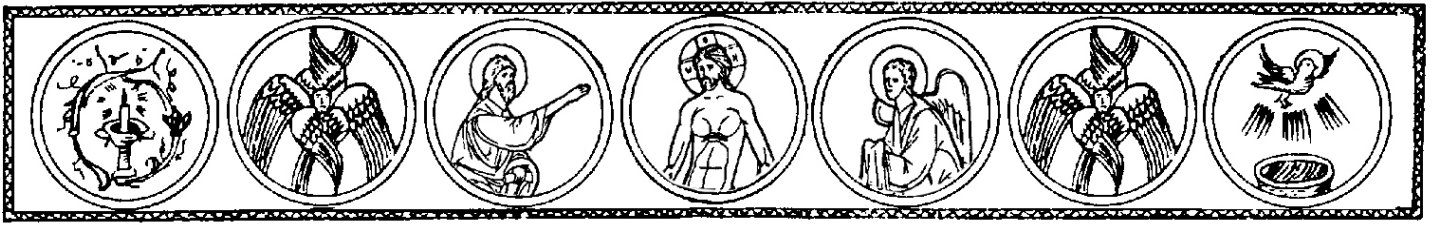
Sunday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>

Gabriela Jones



**Living:** Fr. Alexander Atty, Fr. Christian, Mat. Dunia, Hayley, Tyler Pelesh, Wallace & Michelle, John Trax, Maleah Morsey, Victoria Kokkinos, Karen Nichols, Denise Royal, Jane Koshutko, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Bruce Eckerd, Stella, Ari, Nedelina, Liliana, Nada and child, Jess and child, Irene Clenney, **Departed:** Fr. Michael Mihalick, Kathryn, Avramia.

CASH FLOWS									FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING THRU 12/31/12			RENOVATION THRU 12/31/12			DECEMBER OPERATING			ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 1/6/13		
Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Difference	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
69,643	59,265	+10,378	73,041	96,597	-23,556	10,822	11,027	-205	+246	-1,899	-29,820



## THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

*Celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



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"*

### **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!

### **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.



## ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS TO MARCH FOR LIFE ON EVE OF METROPOLITAN TIKHON'S ENTHRONEMENT

From OCA.org

On Friday, January 25, 2013—the eve of the enthronement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at Saint Nicholas Cathedral here—Orthodox Christians from across the country will gather in the US capital for the annual March for Life.

The members of the Orthodox Church in America's Holy Synod of Bishops will join Metropolitan Tikhon, students from Saint Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA and Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY, and clergy and faithful from the region and beyond for the march. According to

Archpriest John Kowalczyk, a pro-life activist and co-founder of the Orthodox presence at the annual March, this year's event will be attended by the largest number of OCA hierarchs in history. Marchers are asked to gather under the "Orthodox Christians for Life" banner at the Ellipse at noon. They will march to the Supreme Court, where Met. Tikhon will lead the hierarchs, clergy and faithful in prayer for the victims of abortion.

Father John added that on Thursday, January 24, Metropolitan Tikhon will preside at the celebration of Vespers at the OCA's Saint Nicholas Cathedral, 3500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, at 6:00 p.m. A reception will follow. All marchers are invited to attend. On Friday evening, the annual Rose Banquet will be held at DC's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Tickets are still available and may be ordered by contacting Father John at [Impm46@aol.com](mailto:Impm46@aol.com) or 570-876-1241. Additional details and general information on the March may be found at [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org).



## 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).



## QUESTIONS ABOUT HOLY WATER

### Q. Does holy water have magical powers?

A. No. But it is matter that is "spirit-bearing" which brings the blessing of God, cleansing, healing, and can be used for every purpose that is expedient.

### Q. Where should I keep the holy water?

A. Some keep the holy water in their icon corner and others in the refrigerator.

### Q. When should I drink holy water?

A. When you feel a spiritual need, that is when you find yourself strongly tempted; feel in an evil way; are about to set out on a journey; will miss the divine services; before a difficult encounter; in illness, afflictions, etc.. It is the custom of some pious people to take a drink of holy water the first thing every day before they eat or drink anything else (not on days when they receive Holy Communion).

### House Blessing: The Purpose

The blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We 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 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.

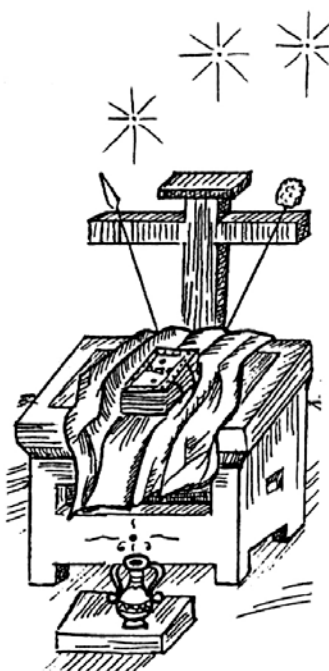


### BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

By Hieromonk John (Anderson)

The Church is literally the Body of Christ. This means that corporately, not individually, we are Christ Himself still incarnate in the world doing His work. If a person desires with their whole heart one can unite to Christ and become a member of His Body. Ideally, this is motivated by a simple desire to know God and to be where He is. Out of this love for God comes the desire to follow his commands and to worship Him. However, this happens in a context which is not our own.

Orthodoxy maintains the ancient Jewish belief that God is manifest in the temple. We believe that the same glorious presence of God, the Shekinah Glory, that dwelt on the Ark of the Covenant now resides on each altar in every Orthodoxy Temple. "God is with us, understand all ye nations." Isaiah 8:10, as the hymn from Great Compline says. If we truly understood what this means -- that the God "who is a consuming fire" is literally present in the Church -- we would strive to worship before Him frequently.



Church attendance is not merely about obligation, guilt, or nostalgia. It is about being where the beloved is and worshipping Him simply because we love Him. It is about being the Body of Christ in oneness. By going to Church we learn to lay aside ego, we learn to love, we learn to live, and we learn how to be truly human. Christ Himself told us to make God the absolute center of our lives and to make all else secondary. Eternal life begins at the altar where we remain in His Presence without distractions, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt 6:21.

### 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