



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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## BULLETIN OF JANUARY 5, 2014

### A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us!

### Holy Theophany

This Great Feast of the Lord commemorates His baptism in the Jordan River and the revelation of the Holy Trinity. The Blessing of Water will be held tonight following Matins at 7:00pm. The Divine Liturgy will be held tomorrow at 9:00am. Please bring appropriate vessels (glass or plastic jars without commercial labels) to take the blessed water to your homes.



### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>

#### Eve of Theophany

##### Strict Fast

8:40a.m. Hours  
 9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Hour  
 7:00p.m. Matins; Blsq. of Water

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

#### Theophany of the Lord

##### One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>

10:00a.m. *Divine Liturgy*  
 12:00p.m. *Blessing of Atlantic*  
*@ St. George's in OC*  
 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

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

#### Sunday After Theophany

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

### House Blessing

If you would like your home blessed, please sign-up in the back.

### Blessing of the Atlantic Ocean – Saturday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

On Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, we will join St. George's Greek Orthodox Church for their annual Blessing of Waters, served at the Atlantic Ocean. Divine Liturgy at 10:00am. Blessing of Waters at 12:00pm on the beach at 91<sup>st</sup> Street in Ocean City.

### Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Constantine and Sylvia Mitsopoulos on the birth of their granddaughter Zoie and to George and Ellen Kaloroumakis on the birth of their grandson Zachary George! May the Lord grant them all many blessed years!



### 30K Goal is Reached!

Sincere appreciation is offered to all who helped pay back our mission's 30K loan. May the Lord bless you for your generosity, faithfulness, and commitment!

### The March for Life in Washington – Wednesday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</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.

### Stewardship Envelopes for 2014

Please be sure to pick-up your set of envelopes for 2014 at the usher's stand. There are envelopes available for everyone.

### Annual Meeting of the Parish – February 2<sup>nd</sup>

will be on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the coffee hour. Everyone is asked to set aside this day, making a special effort to be in attendance. While all are welcome and encouraged to attend, voting privileges are reserved for those who are official members of the parish. A Parish Council meeting will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup> in preparation.



### READER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>

Gabriela Jones

#### Sunday, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>

Kathy Parrish



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 11/30/13					CASH FLOWS IN DECEMBER 2013					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 1/05		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Due 2/2014
62,318	55,022	45,652	27,119	+25,892	7,288	3,547	7,395	31,375	-20,239	+4,309	0	0



## 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.

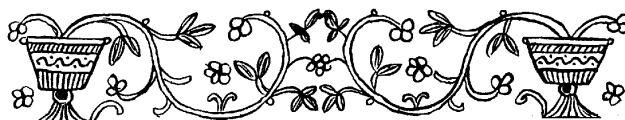
*Translation by Fr. Stephen Janos from the "Reference Book for Clergy-Server"*

### **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.



## 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 enter into our homes and bless 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 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.

## JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

### Anniversaries:

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

### Birthdays:

- 1/5 Constantine Mitsopoulos
- 1/12 Nada McFarland
- 1/13 Matthew Nicholas McFarland
- 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
- 1/7 *St. John the Baptist*  
John Kokkinos
- 1/17 *St. Anthony the Great*  
Antonio Kokkinos