

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

10315 Carey Road; Berlin, MD 21811
302-537-6055 (church) / orthodoxdelmarva.org /
frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Leave-taking of Nativity

Sunday Before Theophany

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
St. Basil's Bread
Coffee Hr
Christmas Pageant
7:00p.m. Great Vespers

MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Circumcision of Our Lord

St. Basil the Great

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH

Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast

7:00p.m. Matins;
Great Blessing of Water

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6TH

Holy Theophany

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:00p.m. No Bible Study
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH

Sunday After Theophany

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

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 7th

Daniel Moss

Sunday, January 14th

Gabriela Jones



A Warm Welcome!

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

St. Basil's Bread + Christmas Pageant

Today, we will keep the custom of St. Basil's Bread and also have a Christmas Pageant performed by the children after the Liturgy.

Nativity Celebrations

Many thanks to all who assisted last Sunday with the clean-up / decoration of the chapel and hall. Likewise, we thank those who sang, read, ushered, prayed and served for the Divine services. Your dedication is appreciated! Finally, Mat. Emily and I would like to thank everyone for their cards and generous gifts!



Reminder: Matching Donation

Today is the final day for the 12K Matching Donation. Every dollar donated today will be matched!

Many Blessed Years to Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak!

December 29th was Fr. Daniel's 91st birthday, and we humbly ask the Lord's continued blessings upon him. May God grant Fr. Daniel and Mat. Dunia many more years of health, happiness, and salvation!

New Civil Year

As we enter into 2018, we give thanks to God for all of His blessings during this past year. We will have Vespers on New Year's Eve, at 7:00pm, and Divine Liturgy on New Year's Day at 9:00am.

Fast Free Period

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.

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 on Friday after Matins at 7:00pm. The Divine Liturgy will be held on Saturday at 9:00am. Please bring appropriate vessels (glass/plastic jars without commercial labels) to take the blessed water to your homes.



House/Business Blessing

Would you like your home/business blessed? Sign-up at usher stand.

2017 Annual Parish Meeting - Save the Date

Sunday, Jan. 28th, following the coffee hour. All asked to attend.

CASH FLOWS THROUGH 11/30/17					CASH FLOWS IN NOVEMBER 2017					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	AS OF: 12/31		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Available	Restricted	Savings
82,565	79,050	33,728	31,142	+7,100	11,297	15,335	540	540	-4,038	6,738	3,139	0

ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Commemorated on January 1st

Basil was born during the reign of Emperor Constantine. While still unbaptized, Basil spent fifteen years in Athens where he studied philosophy, rhetoric, astronomy and all other secular sciences of that time. His colleagues at that time were Gregory the Theologian and Julian, later the apostate emperor. In his mature years he was baptized in the river Jordan along with Euvlios his former teacher. He was Bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia for almost ten years and completed his earthly life fifty years after his birth. He was a great defender of Orthodoxy, a great light of moral purity, a religious zealot, a great theological mind, a great builder and pillar of the Church of God. Basil fully deserved the title "Great." In liturgical services, he is referred to as the "bee of the Church of Christ which brings honey to the faithful and with its stinger pricks the heretics." Numerous works of this Father of the Church are preserved; they include theological, apologetical, ascetical and canonical writings as well as the Holy and Divine Liturgy named after him.

This Divine Liturgy is celebrated ten times throughout the year: the First of January, his feast day; on the eve of the Nativity of our Lord; on the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord; all Sundays of the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], except Palm Sunday; on Great and Holy Thursday and on Great and Holy Saturday. St. Basil died peacefully on January 1, 379 A.D., and was translated into the Kingdom of Christ.



ON CHRISTIAN CHARITY

St. John Chrysostom (4th century)

Lift up and stretch out your hands, not to heaven, but to the poor; for if you stretch out your hands to the poor, you have reached the summit of heaven. But if you lift up your hands in prayer without sharing with the poor, it is worth nothing... Every family should have a room where Christ is welcomed in the person of the hungry and thirsty stranger. The poor are a greater temple than the sanctuary; this altar the poor, you can raise up anywhere, on any street, and offer the liturgy at any hour.

ON HOLY COMMUNION

St. Cyril of Alexandria (5th century)

If the poison of pride is swelling up in you, turn to the Eucharist; and that Bread, Which is your God humbling and disguising Himself, will teach you humility. If the fever of selfish greed rages in you, feed on this Bread; and you will learn generosity. If the cold wind of coveting withers you, hasten to the Bread of Angels; and charity will come to blossom in your heart. If you feel the itch of intemperance, nourish yourself with the Flesh and Blood of Christ, Who practiced heroic self-control during His earthly life; and you will become temperate. If you are lazy and sluggish about spiritual things, strengthen yourself with this heavenly Food; and you will grow fervent. Lastly, if you feel scorched by the fever of impurity, go to the banquet of the Angels; and the spotless Flesh of Christ will make you pure and chaste.



THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Celebrated on January 6th, by Fr. Stephen Janos

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.

JANUARY CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

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

Birthdays:

- 1/5 Constantine Mitsopoulos
- 1/9 Ekaterina Golub
- 1/12 Nada McFarland
- 1/13 Matthew Nicholas McFarland
- Francis Abdow
- 1/19 Bob Dodge
- Howard Peters
- 1/23 Sebastian Klimitchev
- 1/26 Fr. Christian Lesinsky

Namesdays:

- 1/1 *St. Basil the Great*
Basil Cook
- 1/2 *St. Seraphim of Sarov*
Damiana Seraphine Milite
- 1/3 *St. Genevieve of Paris*
Jenny Barbarita
- 1/7 *St. John the Baptist*
John Kokkinos
Joanne Bushman
- 1/12 *St. Tatiana of Rome*
Tatiana Chistyakova
- 1/17 *St. Anthony the Great*
Antonio Kokkinos

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.

