



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 5, 2020

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH

Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast

8:40am Pre-baptismal Prayers
 9:00am Baptismal Div. Liturgy
 Coffee Hour (Strict Fast)
 7:00pm Matins; Great Bsg. of Water

MONDAY, JANUARY 6TH

Theophany of the Lord

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

9:00am Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7TH

Synaxis of the Baptist

9:00am Akathist

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH

5:00pm Bible Study
 6:00pm Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH

Sunday After Theophany

8:40am Hours
 9:00am Div. Liturgy
 Coffee Hour/Orthodoxy 101

"Do not say that faith in Christ alone can save you, for this is not possible if you do not attain love for Him, which is demonstrated by deeds. As for mere faith: "The demons also believe and tremble" (James, 2:19). The action of love consists in heartfelt good deeds toward one's neighbor, magnanimity, patience, and sober use of things."

St. Maximos the Confessor

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all our visitors! It is 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 tonight after Matins at 7:00pm. The Divine Liturgy will be held on Monday at 9:00am. Please bring appropriate vessels (glass or plastic jars without commercial labels) to take the blessed water to your homes. Today is a Strict Fast day to prepare us for the Feast.



House/Business Blessing

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

Reception of the Howard Family

We congratulate Lowen, Rachael, Judah, Lewis, and Martin on their entrance into the Orthodox Church through the reception of Holy Baptism/Confession, Chrismation and Communion! May the Lord grant them health, strength, salvation, a furtherance in every good thing, and many blessed years!



St. Basil's Bread

Congratulations to the recipient of St. Basil's Coin: Simona Alina Mellinger. The other coins were in the pieces cut for Christian Josephine Milite and Dominic Morsey. Many Years to all!

Our Directory of Parishioners and Friends

is currently being updated. If you attend Christ the Savior Mission even infrequently and are not yet listed in our directory, please fill out a directory form in the back of the church. An updated directory will be made available at the candle stand in early 2020. Questions, please see Nissa Nancy. Thank you!



2020 Annual Parish Meeting - Save the Date

Sunday, January 26th, following the Divine Liturgy. All asked to attend.

The March for Life in Washington – Friday, Jan. 24th

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. If you are in need of more information, please see Fr. John.



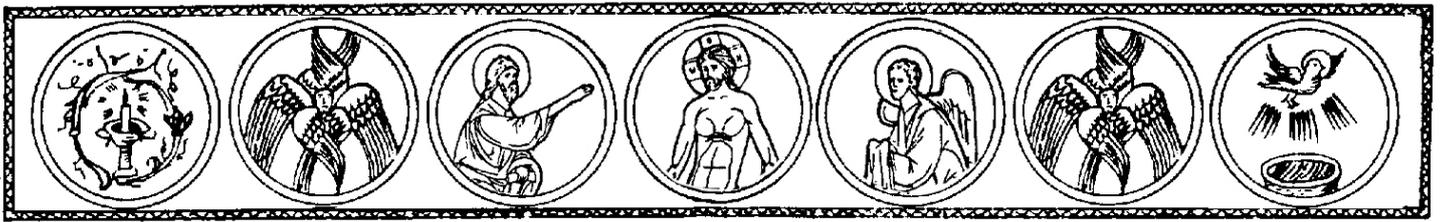
2019 Stewardship Update

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all who faithful and sacrificially supported our parish in 2019. Through your good efforts we were able to meet our stewardship goals. May the Lord richly bless you with His grace!

Auditors Need for 2019 Financial Books

Please see Ioana Davidson or Pat McAlpin as soon as possible. Thank you!

✠	OPERATING			EARMARKED			ACCOUNTS		READER SCHEDULE	
	THRU 11/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	THRU 11/30	THIS MONTH	THIS YEAR	OPERATING			
INCOME	98,453	13,277	111,730	18,176	1,830	20,006	EARMARKED	13,680	1/5	Megan Wilkinson
EXPENSE	101,871	9,261	111,132	8,665	3,573	12,238	SAVINGS	12,000	1/12	Rdr. George Kaloroumakis
NET	-3,418	+4,016	+598	+9,511	-1,743	+7,768	BUILDING	5,000	1/19	Rdr. Nicholas Borodulia
									1/26	Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones



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

Celebrated on the 6th Day of the Month January, 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.

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

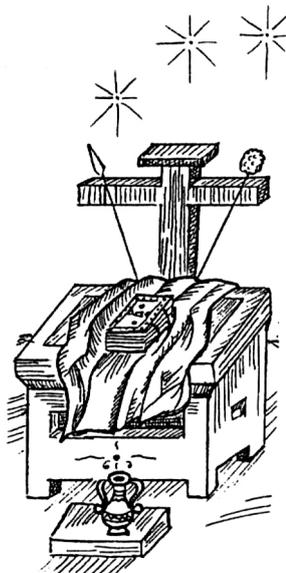
Today Thou hast shown forth to the universe, and Thy light O Lord has shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee. Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light unapproachable.



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:

1/2 David & Pat McAlpin

Birthdays:

1/1 Hazel Genevieve Moss
 1/5 Constantine Mitsopoulos
 1/6 David Hill
 1/9 Ekaterina Golub
 1/10 Alexandra Fedotova
 1/12 Nada McFarland
 1/13 Rachael Howard
 Matthew Nicholas McFarland
 Francis Abdow
 1/23 Sebastian Klimitchev
 1/26 Fr. Christian Lesinsky
 1/31 Nicholas Fenzel

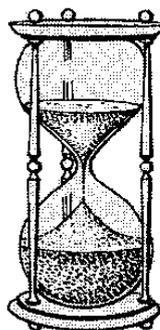
Namesdays:

1/1 *St. Basil the Great*
 Walter Basil Casserly
 Basil Cook
 1/2 *St. Seraphim of Sarov*
 Damiana Seraphine Milite
 1/3 *St. Genevieve of Paris*
 Hazel Genevieve Moss
 1/7 *St. John the Baptist*
 John Kokkinos
 Joanne Bushman
 Ioana Davidson
 1/10 *St. Gregory of Nyssa*
 Gary Casserly
 1/12 *St. Tatiana of Rome*
 Tatiana Chistyakova
 1/17 *St. Anthony the Great*
 Antonio Kokkinos

ON TIME AND ETERNITY

By St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

"We see the water of a river flowing uninterruptedly and passing away, and all that floats on its surface, rubbish or beams of trees, all pass by. Christian! So does our life. . . I was an infant, and that time has



gone. I was an adolescent, and that too has passed. I was a young man, and that too is far behind me. The strong and mature man that I was is no more. My hair turns white, I succumb to age, but that too passes; I approach the end and will go the way of all flesh. I was born in order to die. I die that I may live. Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom!"

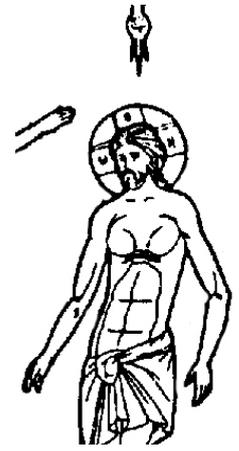
THE FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

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 elements. 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.

