

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 4, 2009

SUNDAY/JAN. 4th

Sunday Before the Theophany (Tone 4)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School

MONDAY/JAN. 5th (Strict Fast)

Eve of the Theophany

9:30a.m. Royal Hours
7:00p.m. Matins
8:00p.m. Great Blessing of Waters

TUESDAY/JAN. 6th

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

(One of "the 12 Great Feasts")

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
7:00p.m. Compline

WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 7th

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Baptist

THURSDAY/JANUARY 8th

7:00p.m. 40th Day Memorial for Vaschen
Sarchisian

SATURDAY/JANUARY 10th

St. Theophan the Recluse

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Theophan; Confessions
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 11th

Sunday After Theophany (Tone 5)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour; Church School;
Teen Discussion



Kettle of
Holy Water



Sprinkler

What Gets Blessed?



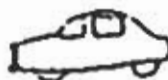
House



Food



Business



Car



Cross



Icon



Animals



Produce

Cancellations Due to Weather

The Parish Website will indicate any changes to the schedule as necessitated by the weather, at least one hour before the service or event. Please check the website before you leave home if the weather is "iffy." You may also call the rectory, or if there be no answer, Mary Holovach may be called at 908-725-8978.

Offerings for the week of January 4th

Olive Oil – for the health of Carol and Christine and Kyle (birthday); in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Joan; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia.

Wine – in memory of Michael Kuzmiak;

Flowers – in memory of Joseph Onushak.

Blessing of Homes

With the newly-blessed waters of Theophany, the homes of the faithful are blessed. All of the faithful are encouraged to have their homes blessed in the period of time between Jan. 6th and Feb. 7th.

Rather than the priest trying to schedule you, you are asked to arrange for the blessing of your home when most family members are present. You may phone, speak with or email Father James. Just check the January monthly calendar to make sure no service is scheduled. Homes may be blessed daytime or nighttime.

A number of homes are scheduled – mostly of retired parishioners.

Jan. 6th, Tuesday

1:30pm M. Holovach, M. Rosocha, H. Macinko

2:30pm M. Mock, J. Cresina, V. Wilhousky

Jan. 7th, Wednesday

11:00a.m. T. Onuschak, S. Olszyk

Namesday Greetings

St. John the Baptist/Jan. 7th: John Chabra,
Many Blessed Years!

The Civil New Year 2009

May the lord bless you in this year. Let us enter the New Year with faith, hope and love.

Parish Synodicon- Memory Eternal!

January	04, 1963	Christine Sudillo
January	04, 1970	Mary Dzurich
January	04, 1978	Peter Wilhousky
January	05, 1964	Nicholas Senko
January	05, 2004	Anna Sudia
January	06, 1952	Michael Kuzmiak
January	07, 1959	Ufim Nesteruk
January	07, 1963	Mary Borushko
January	07, 1967	Helen Knysch
January	08, 1963	Mathilda Blanchard
January	08, 1967	Katherine Karpinski
January	08, 1978	Eustafey Gumenuk
January	09, 1995	Michael Hobora
January	10, 1983	Helen Zvonchenko

During the Divine Liturgy We Ought

- To remember that the Holy Angels are present and sing and pray with fear and devout piety. So should we.
- We should be in church before 9:30a.m., so we have time to pray in our own words, light candles and be ready for the solemn beginning of the Divine Liturgy. Lateness to church is sinful.
- In prayer talk to God – not one another – Coffee Hour is the time and place for us to hold our conversations.
- Church business should not be engaged in during services by council members.
- Candles should be lighted before service begin, if you come late, light them only at times when the Royal Doors are closed.

Icon Print Collection Box

A box to bring your icon prints – from calendars, and cards is on the vestibule stand. Icon prints should not be disposed like trash. The box will be in the vestibule only to the end of January.

Words of the late Patriarch Alexy II

The peace of Christ conquers the hostility of this century and only having this peace is his heart, a person can keep balance in all every day storms and bring reconciliation to those who are near and far, transfiguring life with faith, truth, purity and love.

THE BLESSING OF HOMES AT THEOPHANY

The Purpose

The annual blessing of homes is a custom of special beauty and significance. We again 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 Zaccheus; we ask for the same for all dwelling in our household.



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 a disruption should be placed out of the way. On a small table before the icons, a small but wide-mouthed bowl full of newly blessed water is placed. A lighted candle and censer (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 homes, 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.

AMERICAN ORTHODOX INSTALL NEW PRELATE

Washington Times - Dec 29th - In a liturgy ceremony redolent with incense and rich with tradition, about 300 members and friends of the Orthodox Church in America gathered Sunday at St. Nicholas Cathedral in the District to enthrone 49-year-old Met. Jonah as the head of the church in North America.

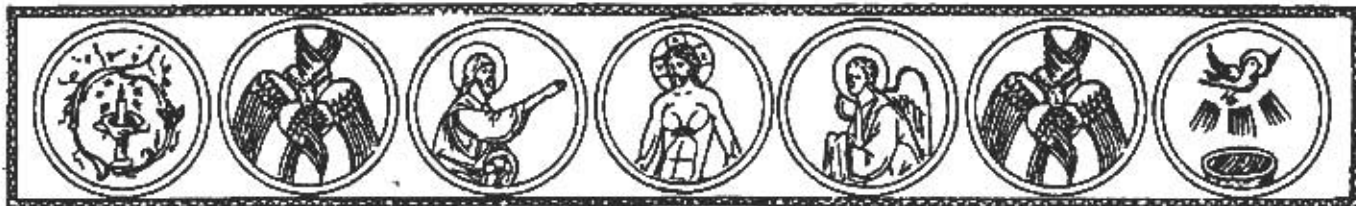
The meteoric rise of Jonah, who was only elected as bishop of Fort Worth, Texas, less than four months ago, shows a great "hunger for change" in the OCA, his former seminary dean said. "This is a brand new, unprecedented time," said the Rev.

Thomas Hopko, dean emeritus of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, N.Y., where Jonah studied for master degrees in theology and divinity. "Change in the sense of a new engagement in the life of the church, in terms of parish renewal," Fr. Hopko added.

In a 15-minute homily, Jonah stressed not the occasion of his elevation, but rather the uniqueness of the Christian message. "The real essence of who we are is hidden with Christ," said Jonah, a former Orthodox monastic. About 300 members and friends of the Orthodox Church in America gathered Sunday at St. Nicholas Cathedral in the District to enthrone 49-year-old Metropolitan Jonah as the head of the church in North America. "It's about how we live, (and) what witness is in our hearts," he told the congregation in the cathedral, as well as about 50 others in an overflow room watching via closed-circuit television. "God is out there, but He is in the depths of our being. What's most important is that inner witness and pristine beauty of that person who is united with Christ." Jonah asserted that Jesus "has given us a unique mission ... go forth and reveal to people God's love and forgiveness." In so doing, he said, "we will be transformed into living icons of Jesus Christ."

That illustration likely was not lost on Jonah's congregation, who largely stood during the three-hour service surrounded by icons of Jesus, the Apostles and numerous saints. Jonah made reference to those icons at the beginning of his homily.





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.

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.

