

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Website: www.ssppoc.org Diocese of NY-NJ: www.nynjoca.org

Face book: Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2014 – 99th Anniversary of Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Manville

SUNDAY/JANUARY 5, 2014

Sunday Before Theophany

Eve of Theophany

Strict Fast Day: No meat, dairy or fish

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy;

followed by the Great Blessing of Waters;

Coffee Hour

5:30p.m. Vigil of Theophany

MONDAY/JANUARY 6

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

(One of “the 12 Great Feasts”)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to

St. John the Baptist (Jan. 7th)

FRIDAY/JANUARY 10

St. Theophan the Recluse

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Theophan

SATURDAY/JANUARY 11

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 12

Sunday after Theophany

St. Sava of Serbia

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Christmas Yolka by Young People with

Coffee Hour



John the Baptist pointing witness to Christ.



Meditation

A beginning is a promise, a new possibility, a hope, a vision. An end is a purpose, a goal, a fulfillment, a conclusion. Another year has ended and another step has been taken in our journey of life. How many more years before the whole journey is completed? When all the steps are taken and all the years have been added up, what will truly matter but to be able to say with St. Paul: “I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life” (2 Tim. 7-8, pp. 543-44). Christ alone can give us true victory in life as we seek to change by His grace. He alone can grant us new spirits, new hearts, new relationships, as we earnestly leave behind what belongs to the old nature and embrace what belongs to the new nature in the likeness of Christ. May Christ bless you to make His ways straight in your life so that He may come and abide with you daily during the new year.



Offerings Week of January 5

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anna and Anastasia; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Basil Kulick; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Elena, Anastasia, Grigore and Maria.

Wine: in thanksgiving to God and salvation of Mariana, Simona, Gabriel, Kurt and Stefan.

Flowers: for the health of Kalashvili family; in memory of Melanie, Evdokia, Demetre, Katherine, Spyridon, Emmanuel and Sevasti.

Litya Breads: for the health of Ekaterina.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

The Parish Synodicon is the listing of those who have fallen-asleep, for whom a funeral service was held here at Ss. Peter & Paul Church. There are those buried in our parish cemetery that had a funeral elsewhere and are not listed in this Parish Synodicon. A complete list for the entire year may be found on the parish website under: "cemetery - parish synodicon."

Jan. 05, 1964	Nicholas Senko
Jan. 05, 2004	Anna Sudia
Jan. 06, 1952	Michael Kuzmiak
Jan. 07, 1959	Ufim Nesteruk
Jan. 07, 1963	Mary Borushho
Jan. 07, 1967	Helen Knysh
Jan. 08, 1963	Mathilda Blanchard
Jan. 08, 1967	Katherine Karpinski
Jan. 08, 1978	Eustafey Gumenuk
Jan. 09, 1995	Michael Hobora
Jan. 10, 1983	George Zvonchenko
Jan. 11, 1979	Vassily Koles

Coffee Hour Hosting

Jan. 05 (fast)	Combs, Mantzafos, Parsells & Sokol
Jan. 12 (Yolka)	Sarchisian, Dunaenko & Wypych
Jan. 19	Peterson, Bakaletz, & Mattei

Ushers Schedule

Jan. 05	T. Smith & P. Bakaletz
Jan. 12	T. Gorbuk & J. Stone
Jan. 19	D. Fedechko & C. Dunaenko

Photos of the Nativity Feast - Dec. 25

On the parish website, photos for the Royal Hours, the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy may be found.

The Blessing of Homes: Jan. 7 - Feb. 9

The season of blessing of homes is shorter this year (2014) due to the earlier date of Pascha. You are asked to arrange for your home blessing asap.

Phone: 908-686-1452

E-Mail: frjames@ssppoc.org

In person: At Sunday Coffee Hours

On Sunday, January 12th (after the Yolka) home blessing will take place only in Manville (2-7p.m.). Manville homes may of course, be blessed at any other time as well.

The Calendar

Jan. 23	Parish Council Meeting
Jan. 30	Annual Meeting Reports Due
Feb. 02	Meeting of our Lord (Blsg. of candles)
Feb. 02	Distribution of Annual Mtg. Reports
Feb. 02	Super Bowl of Caring (food pantry & \$1)
Feb. 09	Annual Parish Meeting
Feb. 22	Parish Workshop on Church Growth
Mar. 02	Beginning of Great Lent

Winter Weather Alert: If Changes are necessary, check out the following one hour before scheduled service or event:

- Face Book, "Friends of Ss. Peter & POaul Orthodox Church"
- Parish website calendar
- Parish list e-mail



Meditation

At all times I beseech the Lord who is merciful to grant that I may love my enemies; and by the grace of God I have experienced what the love of God is, and what it is to love my neighbor; and day and night I pray to the Lord for love, and the Lord gives me tears to weep for the whole world. But if I find fault with any man or look on him with an unkind eye my tears dry up and my soul sinks into despondency. Yet do I begin again to entreat forgiveness of the Lord, and the Lord in His mercy forgives me, a sinner.

The Elder Silouan





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!

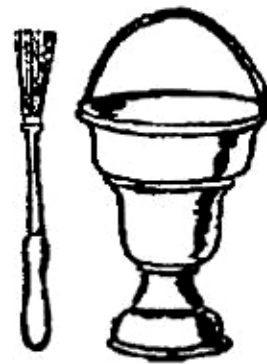
Kontakion - Tone 4

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.



FROM THE PRAYER FOR THE BLESSING OF WATER

O King, Who loves mankind, be present now as Thou wast at the Jordan through the coming of Thy Holy Spirit and sanctify this water. And confer upon it: the grace of redemption, the blessing of the Jordan. Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a forgiveness of sins, a protection against disease, a destruction of demons, inaccessible to evil powers and filled with angelic strength; that all who draw from it and drink of it may have it: for the cleansing of their soul and body, for the healing of their passions, and for the sanctification of their homes, and for every purpose that is fitting.



House Blessing: 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 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 by being startled by the sprinkling water 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.

