

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 / fax: 908-685-1074 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org

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

Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church"

BULLETIN OF JANUARY 4, 2015

1915 – 2015 CELEBRATING OUR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SUNDAY/JANUARY 4

Sunday Before Theophany

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

MONDAY/JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast Day

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

TUESDAY/JANUARY 6

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

(One of the "12 Great Feasts of the Year")

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

WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:30a.m. Akathist to the Baptist

SATURDAY/JANUARY 10

St. Theophan the Recluse

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

SUNDAY/JANUARY 11

Sunday After Theophany

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour & Christmas Yolka



Car



House

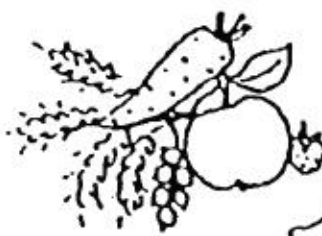


Icon

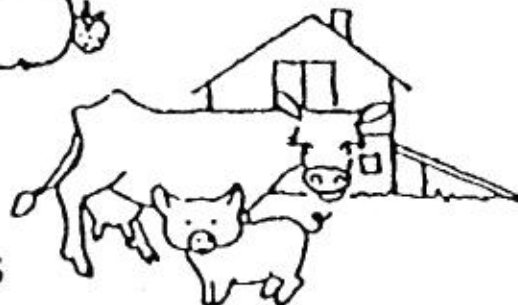


Cross

What Gets Blessed?



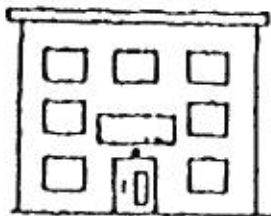
Food



Animals



Produce



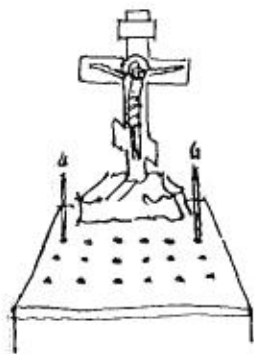
Business

Offerings Week of January 4

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Rosalia, Justina Anastasia, Anna; in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; health of Carol, Christine & Kyle (birthday).

Flowers: in memory of Josephine & William Gulbin; for the health of Basil.

Feb. 03 40th Day for Julia Galida
Jan. 04, 1963 Christine Sudillo
Jan. 04, 1970 Mary Dzurich
Jan. 04, 1978 Peter Wilhousky
Jan. 05, 1964 Nicholas Senko
Jan. 05, 2004 Anna Sudia
Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak
Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk
Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Brushko
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 Helen Zvonchenko
Jan. 11, 1979 Vassily Koles



Coffee Hour Hosts

Jan. 04 Kita, Nevitt, Keller
Jan. 11 Inga, Eka, Marina, Nona
Jan. 18 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

Usher Schedule

Jan. 04 Timothy S, & Peter B.
Jan. 11 Timothy G. & Jerome S.
Jan. 18 Dennis F. & Charles D.

Parish Council Meeting

Jan. 22nd, Thurs. at 7:00p.m.

Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports

Jan. 29th, Thurs. 8:00p.m. is the deadline for all written Reports for the Annual Meeting to be submitted.

2015 Annual Parish Meeting

Feb. 8th, Sunday at 11:45a.m. The Meeting will be no longer than 1 hour.

March For Life – Jan. 22nd, Thurs.

Bishop Michael invites members of our Diocese

to join him, other bishops, clergy and faithful for this important demonstration in Washington, DC.

2015 Home Blessing Season

The Blessing of Homes will be from January 7th thru February 20th. If you wish to have your home blessed please arrange this (*as soon as possible for as early a date as possible*) with Father James.

2015 Schedule of Services & Events

Our Parish website has posted the full anticipated schedule of services and events Jan. thru June.

Increase Adjustments beginning in 2015

The Parish Council being mindful of the increases in purchasing costs of candles, wine, flowers and olive oil had determined new 2015 prices.

Small Candle (\$3), large candle (\$4), Olive Oil (\$7) Wine (\$15) and flowers (\$25).

Winter Weather Conditions

Due to weather it may be necessary to make changes in the parish schedule of services, meetings, events, etc. Necessitated changes will be posted at least 1 hour prior to what time had been scheduled. Notifications will be found on 1) the Parish Email (subscribe on the parish website); 2) on the Parish Website Calendar; 3) on Face Book: "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church." If you are not into "social media," please arrange with a parishioner who is, so that they can alert you.

Children & Student Envelopes for 2015

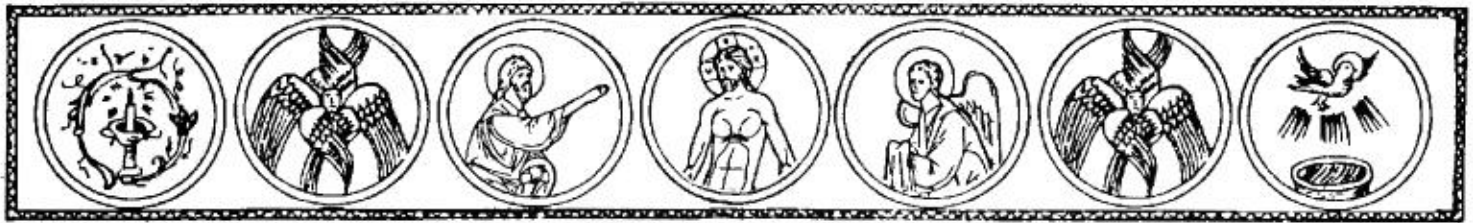
All of our young people are encouraged to start as "good stewards" when they start school. Please secure the box envelopes for your child or children from the parish office.

Parishioner Contribution Envelopes 2015

All parishioners receive every other month in the mail, their Sunday envelopes. Please use them when making your offerings to the church. Questions you may have may be directed to Katherine Mantazos.

We Have Wonderful Coffee Hours

Join us in good fellowship on Sundays in our social hall. Visit our parish library at the same time.



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.

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!

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"

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 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 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.

