

## **SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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Parish Website: [www.ssppoc.org](http://www.ssppoc.org) Diocese of NY-NJ: [www.nynjoca.org](http://www.nynjoca.org)

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

### **BULLETIN FOR SUNDAYS: DEC. 27 & JAN. 3**



#### **SUNDAY/DECEMBER 27**

##### ***Sunday After Nativity; St. Stephen the Proto-Martyr***

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour with Christmas Carols  
12:15p.m. Second Showing of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD

#### **THURSDAY/DECEMBER 31**

9:30a.m. 40<sup>th</sup> Day Memorial for Zinaida Neudachin  
5:30p.m. Vespers & Blessing of St. Basil Breads

#### **FRIDAY/JANUARY 1 (Fast Free Day)**

##### ***Circumcision of the Lord & St. Basil the Great***

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

#### **SATURDAY/JANUARY 2**

##### ***St. Seraphim of Sarov***

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

#### **SUNDAY/JANUARY 3**

##### ***Sunday Before Theophany***

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

#### **TUESDAY/JANUARY 5 (Strict Fast Day)**

##### ***Eve of Theophany***

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

#### **WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 6 (Fast Free Day)**

##### ***THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD***

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

#### **SATURDAY/JANUARY 9**

9:30a.m. Akathist to our Lord; Confessions; 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### **SUNDAY/JANUARY 10**

##### ***Sunday After Theophany & St. Theophan the Recluse***

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

### ***Offerings Weeks of Dec. 27 & Jan. 3***

**Olive Oil:** in memory of Michael, Justina, Anna, Anastasia and Rosalia; in memory of Vachsen and Emilia; for the health of Vera and in memory of John; in memory of Gabriela, Floarea, Gheorghe, Alexandru, Elena, Petre, Alexandru & Elena; for the health of John and Liam (birthdays) for the health of Carol, Christine and Kyle (birthdays) for a safe journey; for the health of Helen and Evdokia

**Wine:** in thanksgiving to God and salvation of Mariana, Gabriel, Tabitha, Kurt, Stefan and Constantine; for the health and prosperity of Kahka Kaliashvili family.

**Flowers:** in memory of Katusha, Byukhuti, Vasil and Zurab; for the Zedock family; in memory of Melanie

**Litya Breads:** for the health of Katherine.

### ***The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!***

Dec. 31 40<sup>th</sup> Day Zinaida Neudachin

Dec. 27, 1989 Mary George

Dec. 28, 1927 Joseph Ribsky

Dec. 28, 1927 Olga Solodiuk

Dec. 28, 1983 John Greshkevitz

Dec. 28, 1987 Edmund Kornacki

Dec. 29, 1977 Alice Susko

Dec. 29, 2002 Edna Kalenik

Dec. 30, 1934 Adam Gromako

Dec. 30, 1989 Michael Barna

Dec. 30, 2006 Anna Wasitowski

Dec. 31, 1942 Tikhon Yakovlev

Dec. 31, 1950 Nicholas Chmelik

Dec. 31, 1962 Jacob Hriniaik

Jan. 01, 1963 Peter Romanowski

Jan. 01, 1995 Michael Hobora

Jan. 01, 2010 Paul Lebedz

Jan. 02, 1947 Chariton Kucher

Jan. 02, 1966 Mary Knaff

Jan. 02, 1989 Charles Specian

Jan. 02, 2012 Vera Wilhousky

Jan. 03, 1962 Mary Tarby Adamcio

Jan. 04, 1963 Christine Sudillo

Jan. 04, 1970 Mary Dzurich

Jan. 04, 1978 Peter Wilhousky

Jan. 05, 1964 Nicholas Senko

Jan. 05, 2005 Anna Sudia

Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak

Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk

Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Borushko

### ***(Parish Synodicon: continued)***

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

### ***Coffee Hour Hosts***

Dec. 27 Kita, Nevitt, Keller & Turri

Jan. 03 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Jan. 10 Motoviloff, Torrisi, Kachek & Stone

### ***Usher Schedule***

Dec. 27 Edward S. & Kahka K.

Jan. 03 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Jan. 10 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

### ***Counters***

Dec. 27 Ekaterini M. & Ciprian C.

Jan. 03 Rebecca O. & Edward S.

Jan. 10 Lisa K. & Daniel T.

### ***Names Day Greetings***

St. Stephen/Dec. 27: Stephen Varney & Stephanie Kachek

Sunday After Nativity: David Peterson & Joseph Janiashvili

St. Basil/Jan. 1: Basil Kulick

St. Juliana/Jan. 2: Juliana Bakaletz

Many Blessed Years!

### ***100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD Orders***

Order forms are on the vestibule stand. Suggested donation of \$15.00 Please place your orders as soon as possible.

### ***A Variety of Incense On Sale For Home Use***

Our religious goods counter has a new selection, check it out.

### ***Fast-Free Seasons: Dec. 25 – Jan. 4***

In this festal period of time we do not fast on any day, nor do we kneel or make prostrations. The performance of Marriages is also not permitted in this time period.

ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN TIKHON  
FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST 2015

CHRIST IS BORN ! GLORIFY HIM !

To the Honorable Clergy, Venerable Monastics, and Pious Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,  
My Beloved Brethren and Blessed Children in the Lord,

It is my joy and privilege to greet all of you on the radiant feast of the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. In some 700 communities large and small sprinkled across the North American continent, from Canada, to the United States and Mexico, we gather together to celebrate the wonder of God's entry into human history. For many in our society this message is still as foolish as it was in the first century. But we continue to stand with the saints beside the manger, the Cross and the empty tomb to proclaim God's sacrificial love for us and for His Creation. As we sing on Christmas Day:

*I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
I will make all Thy wonders known  
In the company of the upright, in the congregation.  
Great are the works of the Lord!  
They are studied by all who have pleasure in them!  
His work is glory and beauty, and His righteousness endures forever.  
--Christmas Day, 1st Antiphon (Psalm 111:1-3)*

Truly, "Great are the works of the Lord!"

He sees a world filled with suffering and He Himself voluntarily suffers to make a path to healing.

He sees a world dying and He Himself dies to bring resurrection and unending life.

He sees a world in darkness and He Himself enters that darkness to bring a divine light that can never be extinguished.

He sees a world in bondage to the forces of evil and He submits Himself to that evil in order to destroy it forever.

The God Who is "ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible and eternally the same" empties Himself of power and divine privilege. He becomes a weak, fragile human being in order to share fully in our broken existence and in so doing offers the possibility of a life in communion with Him, with each other, and with all creation.

May our Lord bless each of you, your communities and your families as you celebrate His Nativity and serve Him.

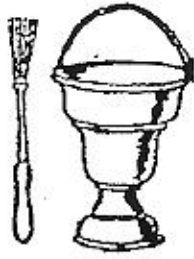
With love in the New-Born Christ,



†TIKHON  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

### 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.



### The Calendar

Jan. 05 Tues. Strict Fast Day  
Jan. 05 Tues. Blessing of Waters  
Jan. 06 Wed. Theophany of our Lord  
Jan. 07-31 Blessing of Homes  
Jan. 10 Sun. Christmas Yolka by Children  
Jan. 21 Thur. Parish Council Meeting  
Jan. 22 Fri. March For Life in DC  
Jan. 23 Sat. Hall Kitchen Cleaning Day  
Jan. 24 Sun. Question & Answer Period  
Jan. 27 Wed. Monthly Study Class  
Jan. 31 Sun. Annual Reports Deadline  
Feb. 02 Tues. Meeting of Our Lord  
Feb. 07 Sun. Souper Bowl of Caring  
Feb. 07 Sun. Scout Sunday  
Feb. 21-5 Mar. Blessing of Homes  
Feb. 24,25 & 26 Pirogei Making Days  
Feb. 28 Sun. Annual Parish Meeting  
Mar. 06 Sun. Leave-Taking of Meats  
Mar. 13 Sun. Leave-Taking of Dairy  
Mar. 14 Mon. Beginning of Great Lent

### 3 Seeds of Growth – November

- 1) Each Sunday, learn the name of a parishioner you do not know.
- 2) Make a resolution to learn something from each Sunday's Bulletin and share it with a person in your family.
- 3) Create the custom of venerating an icon in your home every day with a holy kiss

### 3 Seeds of Growth - December

- 1) Know something about the life of your Patron saint and the date of your names day.
- 2) Invoke your Patron saint daily, "O Holy (Name) my patron, pray unto God for me."
- 3) "Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Psalm 47). At the Divine Liturgy sing loud/soft the hymns and responses.

### 3 Seeds of Growth – January

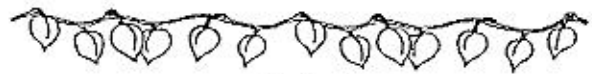
- 1) Have your home blessed.
- 2) Keep a bottle of holy water in your frig and use it for spiritual needs frequently.
- 3) Select a seed from November or December that you may have missed, work on it.

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

Face Book, "Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church or Parish Website Calendar or Parish e-mail list.

### 2016 Financial Support of the Parish

In this the 101 anniversary of our parish, the continued stability and growth of the parish falls upon the shoulders of each one of us. If you are not a proportionate giver, please consider this manner of fiscal support. We ask everyone to be 1) regular, 2) generous, and if possible 3) sacrificial in their offerings. If absent, please make-up or mail in.

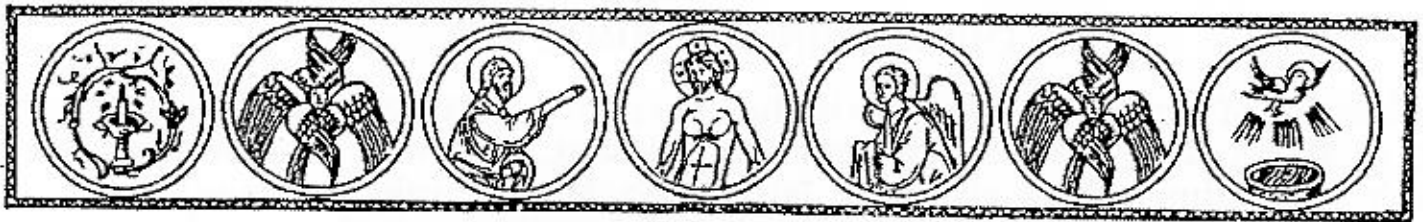


### Meditation

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



## THE BLESSING OF HOMES 2016

The blessing of homes will take place in the time period of January 7-31 and again from Feb. 21-Mar. 5. If you wish to have your home blessed, speak with Fr. James to arrange to schedule a time. Please check the Jan. & Feb. Monthly calendars on-line so your home blessing is not in competition with scheduled services and other parish events.

### 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.