

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

605 Washington Avenue, Manville, New Jersey 08835-1856

Voice: 908-685-1452 Email: frjames@ssppoc.org Website: www.ssppoc.org

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

Diocese of NY-NJ: www.ocanynj.org

BULLETIN JANUARY 8, 2017

SUNDAY/JANUARY 8

Sunday After Theophany

St. Isidore & Martyrs of Estonia

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

Coffee Hour

5:30p.m. First Service of St. Simon of Cyrene

Mission at 80 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick

MONDAY/JANUARY 9

7:00p.m. Compline and Akathist to **St. Theophan the Recluse** (Jan. 10th)

THURSDAY/JANUARY 12

St. Sava of Serbia

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

SATURDAY/JANUARY 14

Leave-Taking of Theophany

St. Nina of Georgia

9:30a.m. Akathist to St. Nina; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

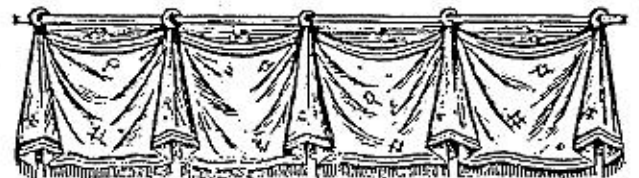
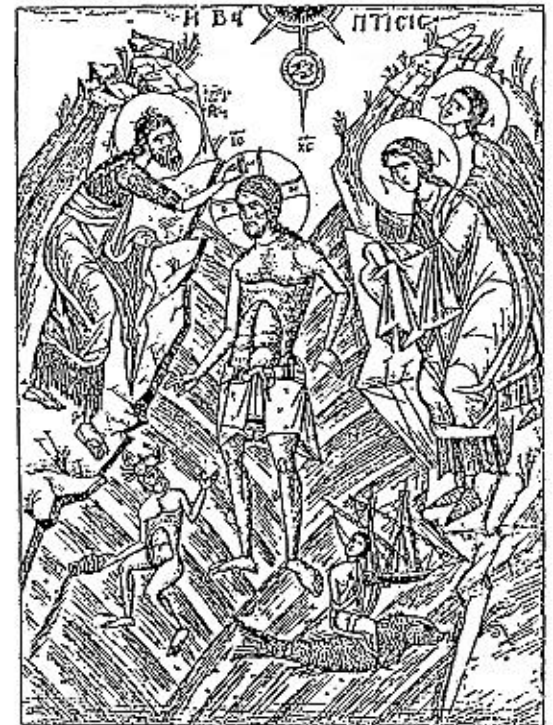
SUNDAY/JANUARY 15

30th Sunday After Pentecost

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

Teen Class

THE HOLY THEOPHANY



All things around us are droplets of the love of God

Take delight in all things that surround us. All things teach us and lead us to God. All things around us are droplets of the love of God – both things animate and inanimate, the plants and animals, the birds and the mountains, the sea and the sunset and the starry sky. They are little loves through which we attain to the great love that is Christ. Flowers, for example, have their own grace; they teach us with their fragrance and with their magnificence. They speak to us of the love of God. They scatter their fragrance and beauty on both sinners and the saints.

- St. Porphyrios of Athos (+1991)

Offerings Week of January 8

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, and Anastasia; in memory of Sarchisian and Bocai families;

Wine: in memory of Frank Bongiorno; for a safe trip.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

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
Jan. 12, 1965 Alex Emilianov
Jan. 12, 1976 Julia Dzyban
Jan. 12, 1982 Xenia Kalevich
Jan. 12, 2011 Margaret Lohsen
Jan. 12, 2013 Slako Yaadlowsky
Jan. 13, 1953 Katherine Shwetz
Jan. 13, 1966 Peter Krentisky
Jan. 15, 2000 Katherine Moroshan

Coffee Hour Schedule

- Coffee Hour Hosts are reminded to prepare foods that are simple enough that you leave the church only after Communion.
- Coffee Hour Hosts, please place trash in the garbage cans outside, or if the cans are full, on top of the cans, but not on the ground.
- Please allow church school teachers and students to be first in line so they can prepare for classes.

Jan. 08 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Jan. 15 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

Usher Schedule

Jan. 08 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Jan. 15 Dennis F.

Counters

Jan. 08 Ciprian C. & Larissa M.

Jan. 15 Ekateriana M. & Irina S.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Jan. 08 Austin K.

Jan. 15 Ciprian C.

The Calendar

- Parish Council Meeting, Jan. 19th.
- Adult Study Class, Jan. 24th.
- March For Life, Washington DC – Jan. 27th
- All Printed Reports for Annual Meeting Deadline, Jan. 31st.
- Souper Bowl of Caring Sundays will be Feb. 5th and 12th.
- Scout Sunday, Feb. 5th.
- NY-NJ Diocese Altar Servers Retreat, Feb. 10th thru 12th, Garrison, NY
- Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, Feb. 12th at 12:30p.m.

The Parish Monthly Calendar For the Year 2017 may be viewed on our Website

By clicking on any month in the year 2017, you will find posted the services, study classes, church school, and parish events. All subject to change.

Recipients of 2017 St. Basil Coin

St. Basil blessed Jerome Stone and Anastasia Mickel.

Photos of Nativity Feast & St. Basil Day

A large selection of photos are posted on our parish website: www.ssppoc.org

The Blessing of Homes Season 2017 is from Jan. 7th thru Feb. 24th.

To arrange for a date and time for the blessing of your home please contact Father James. If possible, make your arrangements as early as you can.

Positions to be Filled

The Parish Council seeks 3 new members. The Ushers Ministry seeks 2 new members. Individuals are also sought to expand the Sunday Coffee Ministry Teams.

Winter Weather Alert

If it is necessary to cancel or delay a particular event happening at the church due to weather, this will be posted on the website at least 1 hour before the scheduled time. Posting will also be on Face Book. Those on the Parish E-Mail List will receive a notification. Please share this information with anyone not using social media.

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 element. 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.



THE GOAL OF FREEDOM

St. Theophan the Recluse

The goal of human freedom is not in freedom itself, nor is it in man, but in God. By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His Divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering.



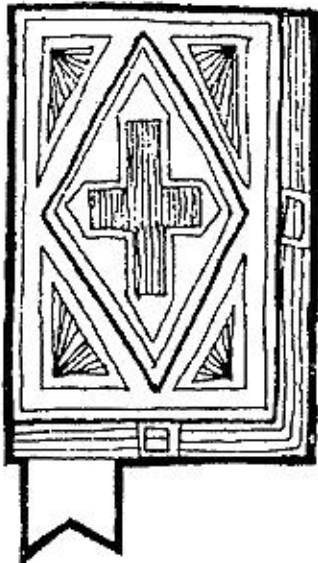
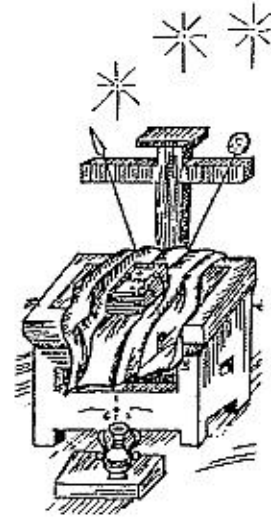
BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

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.



A PRAYER BEFORE READING OR LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

By St. John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ, open Thou the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Thy word and understand and do Thy will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Thy commandments from me, but open mine eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Thy law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom. On Thee do I set my hope, O my God, that Thou shalt enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Thy knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting.

For Thou art the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from Thee cometh every good deed and every gift. Amen.