

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.nynjoca.org

BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

SUNDAY/DECEMBER 31

Leave-Taking of Nativity of our Lord

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

Coffee Hour with Christmas Carols

5:30p.m. Vespers & St. Basil's Bread

MONDAY/JANUARY 1, 2018

Circumcision of our Lord

St. Basil the Great

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

TUESDAY/JANUARY 2

St. Seraphim of Sarov

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

THURSDAY/JANUARY 4

7:00p.m. Royal Hours of Theophany;
Confessions

FRIDAY/JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany

Strict Fast: No meat, dairy or fish

7:00p.m. Matins

8:00p.m. Great Blessing of Waters

SATURDAY/JANUARY 6

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

(One of "the 12 Great Feasts")

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

5:30p.m. Vespers & Compline; Confessions

SUNDAY/JANUARY 7

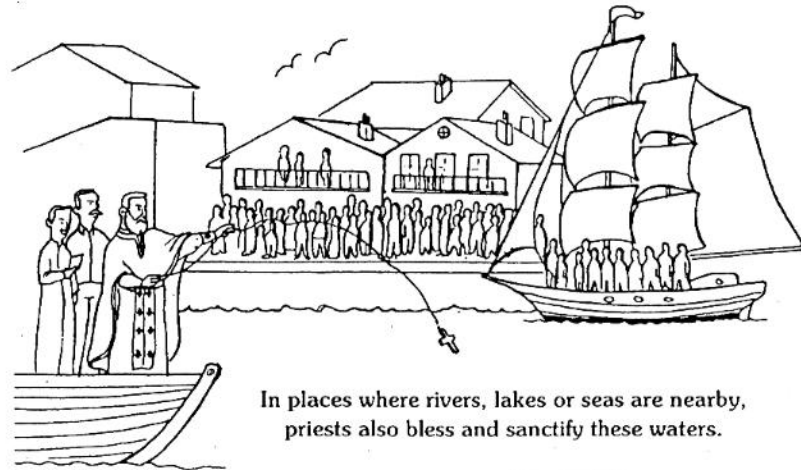
Sunday After Theophany

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

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

THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATER SERVICE

This service is celebrated in Church on the eve day and the feast day of Theophany, January 5th and 6th. On this great feast day, Christ's baptism is remembered. The Orthodox faithful keep the sanctified water from this service in their homes during the whole year to be used for blessing and healing. It is also kept by the clergy in the church.



In places where rivers, lakes or seas are nearby, priests also bless and sanctify these waters.



House blessing

When Orthodox Christians move house it is customary to ask the priest to come to bless the new house. Prayers are sung, and the house is sprinkled throughout with holy water. Cars, boats, crosses, animals, icons*, offices, equipment and so on can also be blessed in this way.

Offerings Week of December 31

Relics Candle: in memory of Infant Ivanna

Olive Oil: in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalia, Anastasia & Ivanna; for the health of Carol, Christine and Kyle (birthdays); for the health of Basil (names day).

Wine: in thanksgiving to God, for remission of sins and healing of Mariana, Stefan, Simona, Gabriel, Tabitha, Kurt, Constantin, Maria, David, Ira-Criso and Kathryn.

Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

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 Dzruich

Jan. 04, 1978 Peter Wilhousky

Jan. 04, 2016 Alice Kulina

Jan. 05, 1964 Nicholas Senko

Jan. 05, 2005 Anna Sudia

Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak

Jan. 06, 2016 Frank Bongiorno

Coffee Hour Schedule

Coffee Hour Hosts please prepare foods that are simple enough, so you are not absent from the Divine Liturgy. It is only after Communion, that we should leave the church and attend to food preparations.

Dec. 31 Kita, Nevitt, Keller, Turri, Torrisi & Kachek

Jan. 07 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona

Jan. 14 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina & Sarchisian

Counters Schedule

Dec. 31 Jill P. & Peter B.

Jan. 07 Rebecca O. & Ekaterini M.

Jan. 14 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

Ushers Schedule

Dec. 31 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Jan. 07 Timothy S. & Peter B.

Jan. 14 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

Sunday Readers Schedule

Dec. 31 Peter G.

Winter Weather Alert

If it is necessary to make changes in the schedule, they will be posted via 1) Parish E-Mail; 2) Parish website www.ssppoc.org; 3) Friends of Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Face Book.

Names Day Greetings

St. David/Sun. After Nativity: David Peterson

St. Joseph/Sun. After Nativity: Joseph Janiashvili

St. Basil/Jan. 1: Basil Kulick

St. Juliana/Jan. 2: Juliana Bakaletz

Many Blessed Years!

Blessing of Homes Season 2018

The Blessing of Homes Season will take place between January 8th – February 17th. Be sure to schedule your home blessing as early as possible in this season.

The Great Blessing of Waters

This unique and beautiful service will be held this Friday, January 5th. Be sure to bring vessels for taking of Blessed Waters to your home.

Study Class – Wednesday, January 10th

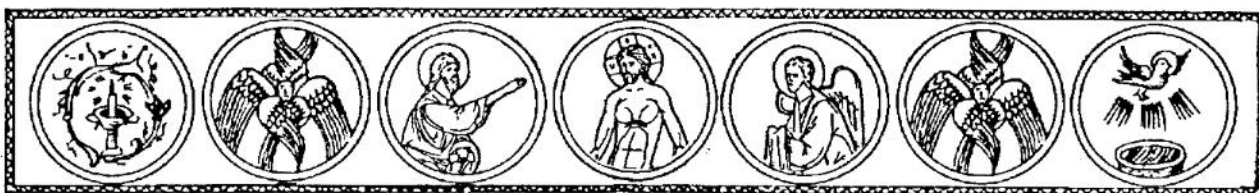
7-8:30p.m.

“Salvation: I Was Saved; I am Saved; I Am Being Saved and I Will be Saved.” Just when and how are we saved? Saved from what?

March For Life – Washington DC, Friday, January 19th

Parish Council Meeting – Thursday, January 25th at 7:00p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting of 2018 – Sunday, February 11th at 12:15p.m.



THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Celebrated on the 6th Day of the Month January, by Fr. Stephen Janos

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.

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 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 it is 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.



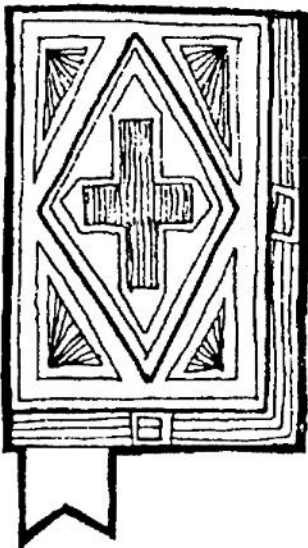
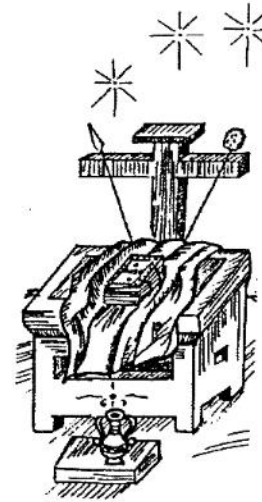
BEING CLOSE TO GOD BY GOING TO CHURCH – WHY DO WE STRESS CHURCH ATTENDANCE?

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.

THE OFFERING LIST

On the vestibule stand there is a sheet for making offerings to the church. Offerings may be made for the **7 Day Relic Candle** (\$5), for **Olive Oil** (\$7), for **Wine** (\$15) or for **Flowers** (\$25).

Offerings may be made for those living and for those departed, Orthodox and Non-Orthodox. The offerings may be made for various occasions: Names Day, Birth Day, Graduation, Health, Illness, Memorial, Travel, Special Intention, Anniversary, Thanksgiving, Honor of a Saint, etc.

All you need to do is put your name and the purpose of your offering for the week you wish on the Offering Sheet. When you sign-up, please at that time, use a blank envelope and put your name on it and indicate on the envelope the amount and purpose: for example "John Doe, \$25 for flowers" You may sign-up for making offerings for any week throughout the year 2018, but please submit your cash offering at the time you sign-up. The Lord bless your offerings!

OFFERINGS

example

RELICS 7 DAY CANDLE \$5 / OLIVE OIL \$7 / WINE \$15 / FLOWERS \$25

Names days Birthdays Memorials Thanksgiving Travel Health
Honor of Saint Anniversaries Graduation Gift of Love Special Intention

SUNDAY January 7

RELICS CANDLE: BY G. Pappas FOR honor of Holy Theophany

RELICS CANDLE: BY J. Smith FOR looking for employment

OLIVE OIL: BY M. Lopez FOR health of Mark (birthday)

OLIVE OIL: BY Z. Petrov FOR safe travel

OLIVE OIL: BY Linda Shade FOR good studies

WINE: BY A. Cherniak FOR memory of Stephan

WINE: BY E. Kostik FOR Nina (expecting mother)

FLOWERS: BY N. Kumar FOR peace in our nation

FLOWERS: BY Anonymous FOR parish family

Year 2018. Please make your offerings at the time you sign-up. In a blank envelope place your offering and indicate on the envelope, your name, amount, item offered for.