

## SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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### BULLETIN OF JANUARY 5, 2020

#### SUNDAY/JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany (Strict Fast Day)

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

& Blessing of Waters; Coffee Hour

6:00p.m. Matins of Theophany

#### MONDAY/JANUARY 6

Theophany of our Lord

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

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to

St. John the Baptist

#### THURSDAY/JANUARY 9

7:00p.m. Compline & Akathist to

St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

#### SATURDAY/JANUARY 11

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions

5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

#### SUNDAY/JANUARY 12

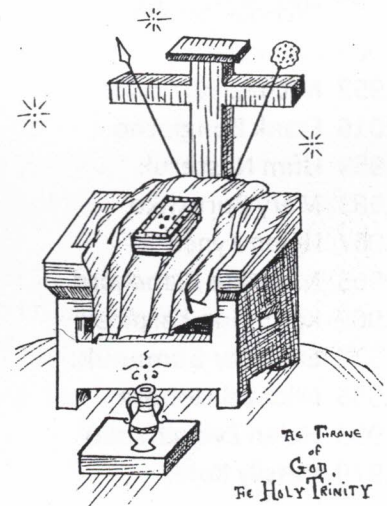
Sunday After Theophany

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

Coffee Hour; Church School

The appearance of the Holy Trinity which was given at the Baptism of our Lord is also represented by the Church in the Icon of the Preparation of the Throne of God.

Here, the Throne depicts God the Father, the Cross, God the Son and the vessel of Myrrh, God the Holy Spirit.



Now, the Lord Jesus, being perfect God and perfect Man (for He had no sins), did not need to be baptized. He was baptized in water for our sake, in order to cleanse and purify all the waters, to drive out the power of the devil.

#### A PATTERN IN MAKING DISCIPLES

- 1) Christ teaches the Word of God, and the Word stirs listeners to initial faith.
- 2) Christ involves the new believer in a specific challenge, and the new believer personally experiences the grace of God; he or she feels unworthy, yet amazed.
- 3) Christ calls the new believer to become a permanent disciple and co-worker with God. The new believer freely and totally gives over his or her life to the Lord and has a new sense of mission as Christ's disciple.



## Offerings Week of January 5

Relic Candle: in memory of Ivanna; for the health of Alexia; in memory of Michael, Justina, Rosalie, Anastasia, Melania and Ivanna; in memory of Constantin, Floarea, Gheorghe, Gabriela, Mria-Valeria, Mihail, Anicuta, Elena, Petre, Ilie, Aurelia, Elena, Marina, Anastasia, Grigore, Anastasia, Aurelia, iosif and Maria.

Olive Oil: in memory of Nicholas, Eleanore, Ann Marie, John and Jerome.

Wine: for safe travelling; for the health of Corneliu, Cregunta, Anna, Antoniu, Alexandru and Adrian.

Flowers: in honor of the Holy Theophany of our Lord.

## Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Jan. 05, 1964 Nicholas Senko  
Jan. 05, 2005 Anna Sudia  
Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak  
Jan. 06, 2016 Frank Bongiorno  
Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk  
Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Borushko  
Jan. 07, 1967 Helen Kynsh  
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 Hosting

Jan. 05 No meat, dairy or fish (fast day)  
Jan. 05 Inga, Eka, Marina & Nona  
Jan. 12 Sokol, Nasledysheva, Staina  
& Sarchisian

## Counters Schedule

Jan. 05 Katrina G. & Ekaterina M.  
Jan. 12 Ciprian C. & Jill P.

## Ushers Schedule

Jan. 05 Timothy S. & Peter B.  
Jan. 12 Jerome S. & Adrian M.

## The Feast of Theophany

- January 5, Sunday – Eve of Theophany: 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Waters; Coffee Hour; 6:00p.m. Matins for Theophany
- January 6, Monday – Holy Theophany: 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; 7:00p.m. Compline
- 2020 Blessing of Home Season: January 7 thru February 22. Appointments can now be made.
- Please schedule your home blessing for as early in the home blessing season as possible:
- Holy Water Bottles on sale at vestibule stand.
- The Feast of Theophany is celebrated thru the Leave-Taking on January 14

## The Winter Coat Drive

Some 47 coats were collected and sent to those needful in the Appalachian Mountains.

## The St. Philaret Christmas Letter & Appeal

The amount of \$3,800 was raised for charitable work. The Lord bless your offering!

## Christmas 2019 Manville Food Pantry

Our parish obtained 42 gift cards @\$25 each (for a total of \$1,050). The cards were placed in an envelope with an inspirational Nativity verse. The Food Bank distributed them on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

## The 2020 Master Parish Calendar Is On-Line

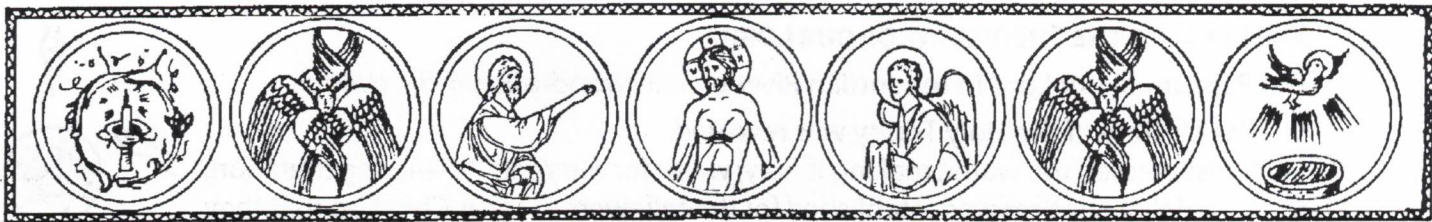
By going to our parish website, under the heading Monthly Calendar, you can make reference to the parish calendar and plan your own calendar in accordance.

## The Orthodox Christian Prayer Book (\$20)

At the vestibule stand, you may purchase what is one of the finest and complete English language prayer books ever published.

## Purchasing Religious Items at Vestibule Stand.

Please do this before or after a service, not during. Katherine Mantzafos can help you. Place your cash or check in a blank envelope and mark it "religious resale."



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

*Celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

