

SAINTS PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF JANUARY 3, 2010

(The Sunday Bulletin also is on the parish website)

SUNDAY/JANUARY 3

Sunday before Theophany

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

MONDAY/JANUARY 4

7:00p.m. Royal Hours of Theophany

TUESDAY/JANUARY 5

Eve of Theophany – Strict Fast Day

7:00p.m. Matins
8:00p.m. Great Blessing of Waters

WEDNESDAY/JANUARY 6 – No Fast

THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

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

THURSDAY/JANUARY 7

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:30.m. Akathist to the Baptist
6:30p.m. Georgian Service for Nativity of the lord
(Old Calendar Christmas)

SATURDAY/JANUARY 9

9:30A.M. Akathist; Confession
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/JANUARY 10

Sunday After Theophany St. Theophan the Recluse

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
Church School and Teen Discussion
Coffee Hour
12:00p.m. Movie:
"Bridge to the East"

Fasting Days

Monday, Jan. 4 (Strict Fast)
Friday, Jan. 8



House blessing

Prayer At The Great Blessing of Water

O King, Who loves mankind, be present now as you were then (at the Jordan), through the coming of Your Holy Spirit and sanctify this water.

(This is repeated three times as the priest makes the sign of the cross over the waters.)

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 to demons, inaccessible to evil powers and filled with angelic might; 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 the passions, for the sanctification of their dwellings and for every purpose that is fitting.

Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

Jan. 26, 40th Day Archbishop Job
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, 2004 Anna Sudia
Jan. 06, 1952 Michael Kuzmiak
Jan. 07, 1959 Ufim Nesteruk
Jan. 07, 1963 Mary Borushko
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

Winter Weather Changes in the schedule

Due to weather conditions, it may be necessary to postpone or cancel services, meetings, classes or other events. The parish website will provide this information at least one hour before the scheduled event. You may also call the rectory, if in doubt.

Namesday Greetings

St. John the Baptist/Jan 7: John Chabra,
Many Blessed years!

Blessing of Homes

Will take place January 6th thru February 6th.
To schedule your home blessing please make arrangements with Fr. James.

Movie Presentation – In Conference Room

Jan. 10th, Sun. at 12:00p.m. and Jan. 12th, Tues at 7:30p.m. Feature: *“Bridge to the East”* This award winning film is narrated by the late Sir Steven Runciman, one of Great Britain’s greatest historians. Sir Runciman traces the influence of the Byzantine World and Culture in Eastern and Western Europe and it’s encounter with Islam. A rich exploration of thought, philosophy, art, architecture and belief. 54 minutes. Invite someone to see it with you!

Parish Council Meeting – Jan. 21st, Thurs.

The Parish Council will meet at 7:00p.m. in the Conference Room. Please have reports ready.

Annual Parish Meeting – Feb. 7th, Sun.

The 2010 Parish Meeting will be held at 12:00p.m. and last no longer than one hour. In case of inclement weather, the Meeting is scheduled to be held the following Sunday 14th. **All Reports for the Meeting must be submitted no later than, Jan. 29th, Fri. 8:00p.m.** This permits time for compilation and distribution for Jan. 31st, Sun.

IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) Souper Bowl of Caring

On Sundays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 07, our parish will be collecting food staples for the local food pantry and monetary gifts for Great Expectations (a local home helping unwedded pregnant mothers). On these Sundays you are asked to bring a canned good or goods and \$1.00 or more for these charitable causes. Baskets will be in the church vestibule.

Fast-Free Week – Jan. 27th & 29th

There is no fasting this Wednesday or Friday.

Icon Print Box is on the Vestibule Stand

As icon prints should be treated respectfully, such prints from your old 2009 wall calendar as well as Christmas cards may be deposited in the box provided. We will collect only this January month.

2010 Parish Financial Support

Parishioners are asked to use the offering envelopes that are mailed to your home every other month. This is the normal and best way to support your parish. It also allows for budget planning. To secure envelopes, please speak with Father James about parish membership.

Offerings for the week of January 3

Olive Oil – in memory of Vaschen and Emilia; for the health of Carol (birthday), Christine and Kyle; in memory of Michael and Justina; in memory of Floarea, Gheorghe, Alexandru, Maria, Sasinca, Father Theophil, Eugenia and Kathleen.

Wine – for protection and salvation of Mariana, Gabriela, Simona, Gabriel, Stefan and Eric.; for the health of Basil Kulick (namesday).

Flowers – for the health of Anna Dao and family.



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.



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.



Water

everywhere and in everything

Water is the most important matter in the world in which we live. Without water our earth would turn to stones and dust, plants would not grow, the air would be unbreathable, no living bodies could exist.

Water is a good image of all the important things in our life.

Water is the symbol of life. People, plants, animals and fish need water to live. Droughts, when not enough rain falls, cause crops to die.

Water is the symbol of destruction and death. Cities and lands often are destroyed by flooding of rivers and oceans. The power of water can cause drowning.

Water is the symbol of purification. Dirt and stains can be washed away with water. Water cleanses and refreshes us.

Christian life is like water.

First, water is part of everything.

Christian life is not "saying our prayers" or "reading the Bible" though this is important. Christian life is being at all times, the kind of person Jesus Christ taught us to be, even when we are talking to someone.

Second, water helps everything grow. Christian life is not standing still, but growing, growing wiser, stronger, and using all the gifts God has given us.

Third, water makes things clean. Water separates the foreign particles of dirt from our faces, our hands, our clothing. Living with Christ means just that too. We have to always try to get rid of those things which are bad and not part of us.

Yes, water is like the life that Jesus Christ gives us.



On the third day God saw the earth covered with water so He made the waters go into one place. When this happened the dry land could be seen and He called the dry land earth. The waters He called seas, oceans, and rivers. Genesis 1:9-10

by Fr. Thomas Kazich