ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America
4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641
773-777-0749 (church office)
773-575-3272 (Fr. Andrew’s cell)
www.allsaaintsorthodox.org

Saturday & Sunday, January 2-3, 2021
Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 am • Saturday Vespers, 7:00 pm
Sunday Matins, 8:30 am • Sunday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

Weekend before Theophany • St. Seraphim of Sarov

Fr. Andrew Kishler, pastor
773-575-3272
Kishler.andrew@gmail.com

Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon, retired pastor
phrii@fsj.org

Deacon Walid Abdul Karim
216-392-9292
Walid1177@yahoo.com

Subdeacon Joseph Freve
773-501-9482
**Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 5):** Let us believers praise and worship the Word: coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection!

**Troparion for the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4):** Make ready, O Zebulun, and prepare, O Naphtali. And thou, River Jordan, cease thy flow and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized. And thou, Adam, rejoice with the first mother, and hide not yourselves as ye did of old in Paradise. For having seen you naked, He appeared to clothe you with the first robe. Yea, Christ hath appeared, desiring to renew the whole creation.

*[Sat. only]* **Troparion for St. Seraphim (Tone 4):** Thou didst love Christ from thy youth, O blessed one, and longing to work for Him alone, thou didst struggle in the wilderness in constant prayer and labor. With penitent heart and great love for Christ, thou wast favored by the Mother of God. Therefore we cry to thee: Save us by thy prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father!

**Kontakion for the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4):** In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: ‘Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.’

**Troparion of All Saints (Tone 4):** Adorned in the blood of Thy martyrs, throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church through them doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassion upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.
EPISTLE READING  
For the Saturday before Theophany

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. What shall I render to the Lord for all His bounty to me?

The reading is from the first epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (3:13-4:5)

TIMOTHY, my son, those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of our religion: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving; for then it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

GOSPEL READING  
For the Saturday before Theophany

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (3:1-11)

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.” Now John himself was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”
THE EPISTLE
For the Sunday before Theophany

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to St. Timothy (4:5-8)

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing.

THE GOSPEL
For the Sunday before Theophany

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes He Who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
Announcements and Upcoming Events

For a full calendar of events and services at All Saints, see our website www.allsaintsorthodox.org

This weekend at All Saints:

- **Chrismation of Kinga Purta**, immediately before the Sunday Divine Liturgy. May God grant her many years!
- **Fr. Pat’s Zoom Bible class**, Sunday at 1pm.
- **Gunnar Combs and Shay Wray’s “virtual” wedding**, downstairs at 1:30pm.

This week:

- Fr. Andrew will be available most of the week for church visits, sacraments, or pastoral visitations. Please call, email, or text to set up an appointment.
- **Tuesday through Friday**: Morning Prayers, 9am. *Each morning, we will read a section of the Psalter together and observe part of the Royal Hours services for Theophany.*
- **Tuesday, Jan. 5**: Vesperal Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Jan. 9**: Divine Liturgy, 10am; Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, Jan. 10**: Matins, 8:30am; Divine Liturgy, 9:30am.

**A NOTE OF THANKS FROM FR. ANDREW AND KH. PATTY**

Many thanks for all of your cards, gifts, and Christmas greetings! We deeply appreciate your generosity and look forward to many more Christmases with you here at All Saints. God’s blessings to one and all!

**HOUSE BLESSINGS**

**From Fr. Andrew**: The new holy water for 2021 will be blessed this Tuesday night at the feast of Theophany. Contact me or Fr. Patrick to schedule your house blessing at your convenience, and know that you are under no obligation to have a meal or gift for the priest. Please note I have no problem stretching these blessings out over the entire year, especially this year due to concerns over COVID. Every Orthodox household should be blessed by a priest at least once a year!

How should you prepare your home for the blessing?

- All who dwell in the home should make every effort to be present.
- Turn off all televisions, radios, or any other distractions.
- Light a candle in front of at least one icon (preferably the usual place of prayer).
- Provide a list of names, living and departed, for the priest to commemorate.
## Volunteer Schedule

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<th>Reader</th>
<th>Prophora</th>
<th>Greeter</th>
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<td>Sat Jan 2</td>
<td>Jim K</td>
<td>Sandy A</td>
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<td>Joseph L</td>
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On the Nativity of the Lord ::
Metropolitan Philip Saliba's 1994 Christmas Sermon

“What is a merciful heart? It is a heart that burns with love for the whole creation—for men, for birds, for beasts, for demons and for every creature.” (St. Isaac the Syrian)

Christmas music is filling the air. In every home there is a Christmas tree; some are real and some are plastic. Lights of every color are glittering in windows, shops, bars and even the discos. Some people are selling, some are buying, some are eating, some are drinking and some are starving to death. …

Christmas Eve, to me, is a time for reflection. The year is slowly sinking into the ocean of eternity, and in my reflection there are painful questions:

Did I love Him enough? Did I serve Him enough? Did I suffer enough? Did I forgive enough? How many tears did I dry? How many wounds did I bind? Was I faithful to Him who loved me beyond measure? How loving and compassionate is God, that despite my sinfulness and unworthiness, He "became flesh and dwelt amongst us." What an unfathomable condescension that He assumed our nature in order to make us part-takers of His nature. Despite His Incarnation, He will always remain incognito in this world if we don't care for each other. But do we really care? Have we seen the starving children on our television screens? Have we ever seen so much despair, so much misery and so much helplessness? These are our brothers and sisters, His brothers and sisters. How sad it is that we do not see the tragedy unless it is projected for us on the screen!

Tonight the Body and Blood of this tender Child will touch millions of lips throughout this troubled world. This divine touch will make us Christlike if we care and respond to His love. To be Christlike, we must be born with Him in the manger, crucified with Him on the Cross and resurrected with Him from the dead. The manger, the Cross, and the empty tomb—these are one single event which sums up the entire history of salvation.

It is Christmas Eve, and another year is about to dawn on us. Let Your light shine upon us so that we may see a new vision, sing a new song and dream a new dream. And if we live to celebrate another Christmas, give us courage to love You more, serve You more and worship You more "in spirit and in truth."
Daily Bible Readings
January 3–9, 2021
Adapted from the St. James Daily Devotional Guide and the Royal Hours Services for Theophany

Sunday, Jan 3: Holy Prophet Malachi
Psalms 9, 10 / Genesis 3
1 Corinthians 15:20-28 / John 1:35-42

Monday, Jan. 4: Synaxis of the 70 Apostles
Psalms 8, 11, 15, 16 / Genesis 4
1 John 3:10-15 / John 1:43-51

Tuesday, Jan. 5: Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas
Psalms 12, 13, 14, 17 / Genesis 5
Isaiah 35:1-10 / Acts 13:24-33 / Matthew 3:1-17

Wednesday, Jan. 6: Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Psalms 96, 97, 67, 72 / Genesis 6
Isaiah 1:16-20 / Acts 19:1-8 / Mark 1:1-11

Thursday, Jan. 7: Holy Prophet and Forerunner John
Psalm 18 / Genesis 7

Friday, Jan. 8: Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople
Psalms 19, 20, 21 / Genesis 8
Isaiah 49:8-15 / Titus 2:11-15, 3:4-7 / John 1:19-34

Saturday, Jan. 9: Philip, Metropolitan of Moscow
Psalms 22, 23, 24 / Genesis 9

All Saints is a parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese The Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph The Right Reverend Bishop Anthony, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest
www.antiochian.org