

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

773-231-6177

www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

The Sunday before Theophany • St. Seraphim of Sarov



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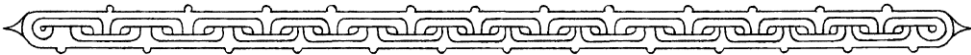
Hymns of the Day, immediately after the Small Entrance:

Troparion of the Resurrection (Tone 3): Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the great mercy.

Troparion for the Forefeast of Theophany (Tone 4): Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. * River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive * the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. * O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; * hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. * Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now * to clothe you in the first robe again. * Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

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.



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 Baptizer 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."

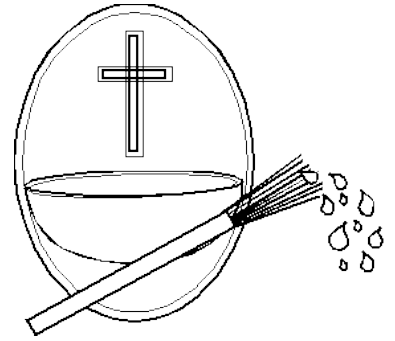


:: WHY DO WE HAVE OUR HOMES BLESSED? ::

Adapted from Phyllis Mesbel Onest, M.Div.

Begin Everything with Prayer

Since we are reminded in Scripture to begin whatever we do with prayer, it has been the practice of Orthodox Christians for centuries to have new dwellings blessed either before or just after settling in. This has been extended to one's business or office, and even college dorm rooms. All the rooms of the house are sprinkled with holy water At the conclusion of the blessing, all the inhabitants and those present are blessed with holy water.



Back to the Fall

From Scripture we know that whatever God created was good, but evil entered the world, corrupting the creation. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save it by effecting a "new creation". This is celebrated at Theophany, specifically with the Great Blessing of Water. The consecration of the waters on this feast places the entire world - through its 'prime element' of water - in the perspective of the cosmic creation, sanctification, and glorification of the Kingdom of God in Christ and the Spirit. All the readings, hymns, prayers, and actions of the day speak of God's presence in our entire world and universe, His creation. Through water, all of the creation is once again sanctified by God, becoming good again, the way God had intended.

The Feast of Theophany

The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) commemorates the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We know from the troparion of the day that "the Trinity was made manifest" to us. But there's more to it than this. "When Jesus descends into the depths of the river, there occurs a profound upheaval. It is not the one baptized who is purified, for he is spotless; but it is the water that is transfigured and illumined. This water, which was believed to be transparent and purifying, is in fact polluted, inhabited by evil spirits, servants of the old gods. ... By purifying the elements, by sanctifying matter, Jesus frees the cosmos from the powers of evil." (*The Incarnate God, Vol. I, Catherine Aslanoff*)

The Great Blessing of Water and the Home

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest and cantor - go to the

homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany. By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings.

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day.

Weaving Christ into Our Lives

The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.)

If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!



Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Upcoming services and events:

- Confession, anointing, and other pastoral services will be available after every listed service, or by appointment with Fr. Andrew.
- **Monday, Jan. 3:** All Saints gym night in Elmwood Park, 5:30-8:30pm. Please see Paul K. for details and to RSVP.
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday:** Morning prayers at 9am. *This week, the four Royal Hours services for Theophany will be split up over four days.*
- **Wednesday, Jan. 5:** Divine Liturgy for the Feast of our Lord's Theophany, followed by the Blessing of the Waters, 7pm.
- **Saturday, Jan. 8:** Vespers, 7pm.
- **Sunday, Jan. 9:** Matins & Liturgy, beginning 8:30am. Coffee hour & Church school resume as usual.

Thank you from the Kishlers: Many thanks to all of you for your Christmas greetings, cards, and thoughtful gifts. We deeply appreciate your generosity and kindness, and we wish you all of God's blessings in the coming year!

House blessings: It is customary for every Orthodox household to be blessed by a priest between January 6 and the beginning of Great Lent each year. It is not necessary to feed or pay the priest, and you are certainly not required to have his entire family over. Please see Fr. Andrew to set up an appointment; if you would rather wait until spring or summer due to COVID or other concerns, you are certainly free to do so.

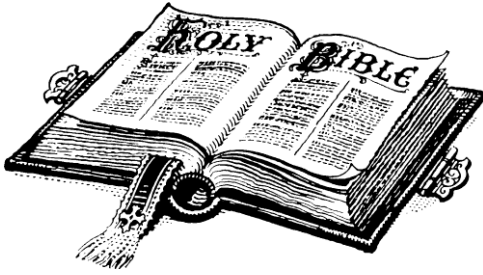
Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prosphora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Fri, Dec 31 <i>St. Basil's Day</i>	Doug J <i>Col 2:8-12</i>	Dn Walid	Nancy L		
Sun., Jan. 2	Jim K <i>2 Tim 4:5-8</i>	Sandy A	Sandy A	Lydia A	G-K
Wed., Jan. 5 <i>Theophany</i>	Paul K <i>Titus 2:11-3:7</i>	Octavian F	Azizeh C		
Sun., Jan. 9	Jason L <i>Eph 4:7-13</i>	Debbie K	Dave B	Domitille	L-P
Sun., Jan. 16	Joseph L	Pat K	Domitille	Alina S	R-Z
Sun., Jan. 23	Richard C	Domitille	Nancy L	Zach C	A-F
Sun., Jan. 30	Michele C	Cristina P	Sandy A	Lydia A	G-K
Tues., Feb. 1 <i>Presentation</i>	Sd Joseph	Dn Walid	Domitille		
Sun., Feb 6	Polycarp	Sandy A	Azizeh	Domitille	L-P
Sun., Feb 13	Doug J	Octavian F	Dave B	Alina S	R-Z
Sun, Feb 20	Jim K	Debbie K	Nancy L	Zach C	A-F

For Sunday coffee hour, the church has been divided into four parts alphabetically (A-F, G-K, L-P, and R-Z). On your assigned week, please bring something simple to share with everyone for coffee hour.

If you have children, please monitor them as they go through the coffee hour line, and help them clean up after themselves.

Weekly clean-up will be the responsibility of those providing coffee hour. And of course, things go faster when we can all pitch in and help.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY 2-8, 2022

ADAPTED FROM THE
THEOPHANY SERVICES OF THE ANTIOCHIAN
ARCHDIOCESE

Sunday, Jan. 2: St. Seraphim of Sarov
Luke 24:36-52 / 2 Timothy 4:5-8 / Mark 1:1-8

Monday, Jan. 3: Holy Prophet Malachi
Exodus 2:5-10 / 1 Timothy 3:13-4:5 / Matthew 3:1-6

Tuesday, Jan. 4: Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles
Isaiah 35:1-10 / Acts 13:25-33 / Matthew 3:7-17

Wednesday, Jan. 5: Holy Prophet Micah
Isaiah 1:16-20 / Acts 19:1-8 / Mark 1:1-11

Thursday, Jan. 6: The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ
Isaiah 12:3-6 / Romans 6:3-11 / Luke 3:1-22

Friday, Jan. 7: Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
Isaiah 49:8-15 / Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7 / John 1:19-34

Saturday, Jan. 8: Venerable George the Chozebite
Ephesians 6:10-17 / Matthew 4:1-11

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