



ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

4129 W. Newport Ave., Chicago, IL 60641

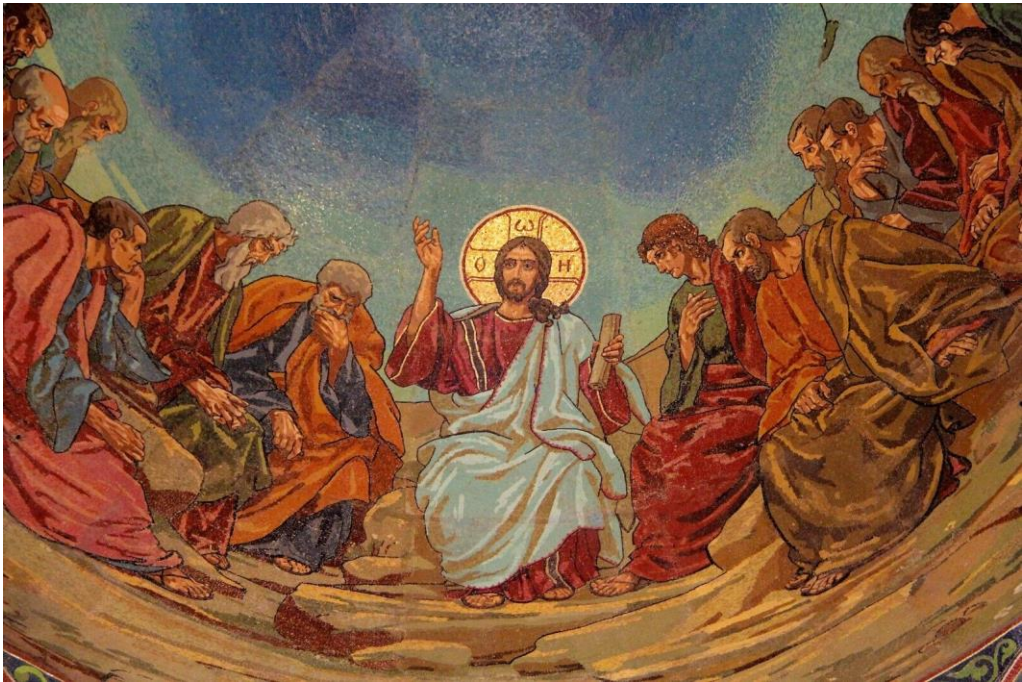
773-231-6177

www.allsaintsorthodox.org

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Saturday Vespers, 7pm • Sunday Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:30am

The Leave-Taking of Theophany



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Troparion for the Resurrection (Tone 7): Thou didst shatter death by Thy cross; Thou didst open paradise to the thief. Thou didst turn the sadness of the ointment-bearing women into joy, and didst bid Thine apostles proclaim a warning, that Thou hast risen, O Christ, granting to the world the great mercy.

Troparion for Theophany (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 for Theophany (Tone 4): Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy light O Lord, hast shone on us, who with understanding praise Thee. Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O light unapproachable!

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 after Theophany of Christ

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-13)

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said: When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men. In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity

of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

For the Sunday after Theophany of Christ

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (4:1-17)

At that time, Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, *‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’*”

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, *‘He will give his angels charge of you,’* and *‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’*” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, *‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’*”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Begone, Satan! for it is written, *‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’*”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: *“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”*

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

Today: Leave-Taking of the Theophany of our Lord

- Baptism of Alice Coleman. *May God grant her many years!*
- Orthros & Baptismal Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour (R-Z) and church school. Adult church school will be taught by Joseph L.

Wednesday, Jan. 17:

- Morning prayers, 9am
- Homeschool classes, 10am-4pm
- Vespers, 7pm

Thursday, Jan. 18: Morning prayers, 9am

Friday, Jan. 19: Morning prayers, 9am

Saturday, Jan. 20:

- Romans Bible Bowl study, 5-7pm
- Great Vespers, 7pm

Next Sunday, January 21:

- Orthros & Divine Liturgy, beginning 8:30am, followed by coffee hour (A-F) and church school

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 2024.

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 after Pascha, that will also be fine.

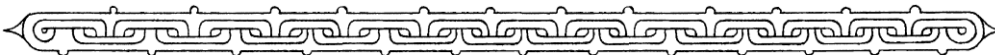
ICON ACADEMY: Eva W. plans once again to host an iconography class this spring. Classes will be held at church on six Saturdays ranging roughly from March through

May. Instruction and all materials are provided, and no previous experience is needed. If interested, please see Eva for questions and Fr. Andrew for his blessing to attend. We will need to know who will participate within the next few weeks.

CROSS ROAD INSTITUTE is currently accepting applications from high school juniors and seniors for their summer programs. This is an immersive 10-day retreat experience in the Orthodox faith. For more information, please visit www.crossroadinstitute.org.

CAMP ST. GEORGE meets for one week in July (over 4th of July) near Strawberry Point, IA and is for campers ages 9-17. Usually, we get 75-85 campers. Camp St. George did not meet in 2020 or 2021 because of Covid, met in 2022, but did not meet in 2023 because we did not have enough staff.

Specific requests: we need 20 counselors (10 male and 10 female), and one or two more people to take on administrative roles, i.e., programming. The staffing needs should be met before we start accepting campers (in six weeks). The camp needs volunteers (18 and older) who are solid in the Orthodox Faith to consider volunteering their time to fill these roles. Applications will be available in January at csgiowa.org. Contact Fr. Fred Shaheen, Camp Director, with the names of any potential staff at shaheenf@hotmail.com.



Volunteer Schedule

Date	Reader	Prospora	Greeter	Coffee	Food
Sun., Jan. 14	Michelle C	Sandy A	Nancy L	Lydia A	R-Z
Sun, Jan. 21	Doug J	Debbie K	Domitille	Zach C	A-F
Sun., Jan. 28	Jim K	Pat K	John O	Alina S	G-K

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 all pitch in and help!*

ON EPIPHANY, PART TWO

By Metropolitan Saba (Ispër)

This feast is an occasion for the believers to examine themselves about the activation of the grace of baptism in their personal lives. The day of our baptism is the day of our true birth, in which we have acquired the sonship of God, and we have put on Christ, as the famous hymn says: “You who are baptized in Christ, in Christ you have been clothed” (see Gal. 3:27). After baptism, the baptized person becomes Christ-like, and must therefore preserve this grace, keep it, and even develop and grow in it, in order to reach the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Saint Gregory Palamas says: “Just as a child takes from his parents the possibility of becoming a man, inheriting parental property upon reaching the appropriate age, but loses it if he dies in the process, so the Christian obtains, by baptism, the ability to become a child of God, an heir of eternal goods, if he (she) does not die spiritually in the course of his (her) life, which is sin.” Sin causes us to lose the graces that we received through baptism.

Use this teaching to reflect on the greatness of the sacrament of baptism and its importance to Christians. This feast invites us to review ourselves and our behavior, in two ways. The first is to preserve the graces of baptism and to cultivate them in us, lest we lose them. It is an occasion to return to the meaning of baptism, to prove the mettle, to preserve it in us, and to live it in its fullness.

The second is the evaluation of our practice of the fulfillment of the sacrament of baptism. The first of these evaluations is to stop choosing the godfather or godmother because of kinship, friendship, or the desire to maintain social graces. We must choose a godly believer who will take this responsibility seriously and be truly a spiritual father or mother. Evaluating the completion of this sacrament means removing it from the prevailing folklore in the way we deal with it and considering it a very serious and important work. We prepare for it by prayer and fasting, and we complete it in a spirit of piety and reverence. We do not consider it a social occasion, nor do we delay it for social or personal reasons. It is an event in which our son or daughter takes the most important thing that a person can receive: the grace to be clothed in Christ and become a son or daughter of God.

The issue of blessing our homes and dedicating them to God comes after the festal liturgy. It is an authentic, honorable Christian tradition. Holy water is a way to bring divine blessing to the home, and we must not lose this practice. Today, this authentic tradition is subject to many obstacles, especially in cities, due to their expansion, living conditions and the schedules of the family. It is imperative for both faithful and priests to strive to find the best way to schedule house blessings. For example, the faithful take the initiative to contact the priest, in order to determine the appropriate time for both, to complete the blessing of the house, and the priest urges the faithful to complete this matter, by pursuing them and communicating diligently with them.

It is necessary for the priest to wear his epitachelion (stole) while blessing homes with water, treating this as a sacramental act. The epitachelion symbolizes God's grace descending through the sprinkling of holy water and prayer. When putting it on, the priest says, just like he vests in preparation for the Divine Liturgy: "Blessed be God who pours out His grace upon His priests like the oil of myrrh upon the head, descending upon Aaron's beard, down to the fringe of his raiment."

Then, the priest chants, with the people of the household that he blesses, the apolytikion of Epiphany, "By Your baptism, O Lord, in the Jordan River..." Children should learn to recite it for the sake of the household.

Let us not allow these holy days to pass without taking advantage of them spiritually. This is why we have them.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

JANUARY 14–20, 2023

ADAPTED FROM THE
LECTIONARY OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ARCHDIOCESE

This week's daily readings continue our sequential reading of Scripture (lectio continua), with readings from Isaiah, St Paul's Epistles, and the Gospel of St. Luke.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14: THE SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

John 21:1-14 / Ephesians 4:7-13 / Matthew 4:1-17

Monday, January 15: Paul of Thebes & John the Hut-Dweller

Isaiah 55 / 2 Timothy 2:1-10 / Luke 3:1-14

Tuesday, January 16: Apostle Peter's Precious Chains

Isaiah 56 / 2 Timothy 2:11-19 / Luke 3:15-22

For St. Peter's Chains: Acts 12:1-11 / John 21:14-25

Wednesday, January 17: Venerable Anthony the Great of Egypt

Isaiah 57 / 2 Timothy 2:20-26 / Luke 3:23-38

Thursday, January 18: Athanasius and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

Isaiah 58 / 2 Timothy 3:1-9 / Luke 4:1-13

Friday, January 19: Macarius the Great of Egypt

Isaiah 59 / 2 Timothy 3:10-17 / Luke 4:14-30

Saturday, January 20: Righteous Euthymius the Great

2 Timothy 4:1-8 / Luke 4:31-37

**ALL SAINTS IS A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF N. AMERICA
HIS GRACE BISHOP ANTHONY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST
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