

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

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regular office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 10:00 am to 1:30 pm

Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

January 3, 2010



The second day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 3. Today's hymns invite us to go in spirit to the Jordan River where the Creator comes to be baptized. He is the Light which shines in the darkness (John 1:5), and today He begins to overcome that darkness.

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—Tone 5. Sunday Before the Theophany. Forefeast of the Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi (400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius at Cæsarea in Cappadocia (4th c.). Ven. Genevieve of Paris (5th c.).

Troparion - Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:
"Do not be afraid to baptize me.
For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."



Troparion - Tone 2

We celebrate the memory of Your prophet Malachi, O Lord;
through him we beseech You:
"Save our souls."

Kontakion - Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon,
and adorn yourself, O Naphtali;
River Jordan, cease flowing
and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized.
Adam, rejoice with our First Mother
and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise;
for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Kontakion - Tone 4

Podoben: "Today You have shown forth..."
Endowed with the gift of prophecy, O Malachi,
you clearly proclaimed the saving coming of Christ to the world.
His brightness has brought light to the whole universe.



Troparion - Tone 4

Your holy martyr Gordius, O Lord,
through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from
You, our God.

For having Your strength, he laid low low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.

Through his intercessions, save our souls!

Kontakion - Tone 8

Podoben: "The universe offers You..."

Holy Gordius, the earth has received the sweat of your labors;
the blood you shed has made the universe rejoice.

Save by your prayers those who sing of your glory in faith,
fittingly honoring you, divine and glorious martyr, worthy of all praise.

2 Timothy 4:5-8

5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "

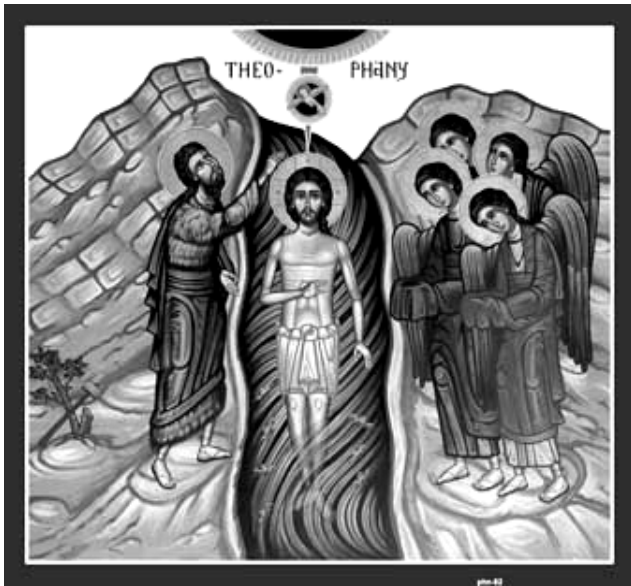
4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



Service Schedule:

January 5th, 6:00 PM

Great Vespers and Blessing of Water

January 6th, 9:30 AM

Feast of Theophany

Divine Liturgy

January 10th (Following Divine Liturgy)

Blessing of Holy Assumption church

Announcements:

NEXT Sunday (Jan. 10) after Liturgy we will "de-decorate" the church. Many hands make light work.

* Parish Council Meeting Monday, Jan. 4 - 7:00 pm

* Thank you to Joan for hosting "Too Many Babas" ladies gathering

* Thank you to the children, Joan and Elena for a wonderful Yolka presented this holiday season.

* Calendars and new directories are in mailboxes (1 calendar and 1 directory per family)

* "Holy Water" bottles are for sale at the candle desk for \$2 apiece. Also encourage parishioners to bring their own water containers to fill to take home. Remind everyone that they should have holy water at home for when Fr. Stacey comes to bless homes in Jan.

* Fr. Stacey will be scheduling times to come bless homes throughout the month of January.

* Financial statements are in your mailboxes. Check them over for amounts, correct address, etc. and see Georgiane if there are any problems.

please email announcements for bulletin by Friday to stevenmathewson@gmail.com or call steven at 330-455-2859

January Birthdays

11 Mary-Ann Frishkorn

11 Katia Gresh

16 Pete Mudrak

19 Peter Tapyrik

30 Erin Haywood

31 Megan Lint

31 Ed Romano

YOUTH SCHEDULE

January 3 - Sunday School

January 10 - HAYOUTH activity

January 17 - Sunday School

January 24 - Youth Choir

January 31 - Sunday School



Jan 3 Manos, Manos, Obeng

Jan 10 Gates, Haywood

Jan 17 Fedorko, Frischkorn, Richter

Jan 24 Monahan, Kisha, Kisha-Wise

Jan 31 Huba, Wescott, Hoffman

Theophany House blessings : 10 Things

1. Houses are traditionally blessed with "Theophany water" each year. A house can be blessed at any time, but the usual season for yearly blessings is from Theophany until the beginning of the Lenten Triodion, which begins four Sundays before Great Lent begins. This is not a hard and fast rule, but a good rule of thumb.

2. Some people place great importance on "*Theophany water*". This is just water that has been blessed with the Great Blessing of the Waters service on Theophany. Another name for this water is simply "Holy Water". We can bless water any time of the year that there is a need for it. In Moscow, for example, there is a huge vat of holy water that the faithful partake of regularly. On regular basis, the vat is refilled with water when it becomes empty, and this new water is blessed. The water blessed in for instance, August is no more and no less "holy" than the water blessed on Theophany.

3. Water is blessed using the "Great Blessing of the Waters" service two distinct times during Theophany: after Vespers on the Eve of Theophany and after the Divine Liturgy on Theophany. The blessings are identical, and the water is identical.

4. In many places, it is traditional to bless water in lakes or rivers. In Russia, clergy often go to such a place, and bless the cold water after a hole has been cut in the ice. Many people will take a dip in the water after it is blessed.

5. When a home is blessed, the priest brings everything needed for the blessing:

- Holy water
- A "krupilla" (brush for flinging the holy water),
- Bowl for the water
- Candles
- Theophany icon.

Many pious homes supply a bowl, candles and the family Theophany icon.

The family should provide the priest with a list of all family members, living and deceased.

The bowl and icon should be placed on a clean table with a cloth on it, preferably near the family icon corner. It is good for candles to be lit. The house should be clean, with all radios and televisions off.

The priest will bless all rooms of the house except the bathrooms. In homes with children, it is always good for the little ones to carry a candle or a small cross and "lead" the priest throughout the house. An elder member of the house may also do this.

6. The basic order for a simple home blessing is as follows.

a. The bowl of water, icon and lit candles are placed on a clean table. IF there is a censer, it may be lit.

b. The priest begins the service with a blessing and the Trisagion prayers (O heavenly King through the "Our Father".) It is always preferable that the eldest of another member of the family say the Trisagion prayers.

c. After this the entire home is blessed, with the family walking with the priest holding candles and the Theophany icon while the Theophany Troparion is sung over and over:

Tone 1: When Thou, wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

It is a very good idea for the family to sing this troparion, and know it by heart. Otherwise, if the priest has many houses to bless, his voice will get tired!



d. Upon finishing blessing the house, the family gathers again at the table, and a short litany is said for the welfare of the family. The priest should have been provided a list of all family members, including those who are ill.

e. After this a short prayer, and the service is ended.

f. It is entirely appropriate the deceased loved ones of the family be commemorated from a list provided to the priest.

g. Sometimes the family wants to give the priest a little something to eat; depending on the time the priest has, he may stay and visit.

7. When a priest visits, it is NEVER required that the family gives him money. The scripture tells us "Freely you have received, freely give".

It is a pious custom among some to give the priest a donation at this time, but this should never be thought of as a requirement. The priest comes to the home because he wants God's blessing to be upon it, and to know those in his flock better and to be available to them.