

"The Fruit of the Spirit..." Galatians 5:22

# The Fruit Basket

Love • Joy • Peace • Goodness • Kindness • Faith • Patience • Temperance • Gentleness

Volume VI, Number 1 *A friendly Orthodox Christian 'Zine* JANUARY 2011

## THE MANIFESTATION OF THE TRINITY



When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,  
The worship of the Trinity was made manifest.  
For the voice of the Father bare witness to You,  
And called You His beloved Son.  
And the Spirit, in the form of a dove,  
Confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, who has revealed Yourself  
And has enlightened the world,  
Glory to You!<sup>1</sup>

1. Troparion of the feast of the Epiphany

## THE FRUIT BASKET

Edited and published monthly  
by An Orthodox Christian

The goal of this publication is to provide a friendly, light, Orthodox Christian 'Zine (a mini-magazine) that contains a blend of "something to exercise our minds, something to make us laugh, and something to make us meditate on spiritual matters." It is also a venue for sharing our insights and interests.

Articles or comments from our readers are welcome. We reserve the right to edit for suitability, clarity and space. Printing of items does not imply endorsement by the church or the priest or even the editor of this publication. Please call if you need more info.

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*Thank you so much for the personal Christmas wish in my Fruit Basket.*

*I just love the Fruit Basket and look for all the little "funnies" in it. I always thank Irene, my sister-in-law for having it sent to me.*

*Wishing you a truly blessed Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.*

*Love, Irene H.*

*Thank you, Irene, for letting me know. I'm so glad you enjoy it.*

*The Editor*

**Q. Why did the sheriff  
arrest the Chicken?**

**A. She used fowl language!**

### **MEDITATION FOR JANUARY**

It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.—G. H. Larimer

**"...Beware that in your plenty you don't forget the Lord your God and begin to disobey him."**

**Deut. 8:11 TLB**

**the *Bless Your Heart Each New Day* Calendar donated by Kathy Z, of Parma**

### **THE WINTER PASCHA**

#### **Readings for the Christmas-Epiphany Season**

by Thomas Hopko

ISBN 0-88141-025-X St Vladimir's Seminary Press,  
575 Scarsdale Rd., Crestwood, NY 10707

The excerpts from the above book will be continued in this issue to include the feast of Epiphany, The Great Blessing of Water, and the Grace of God has Appeared. Due to lack of space only a few could be included. *The Editor*

#### ***From the Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios of the Feast of Saint Basil and the New Year***

We begin the new year with opportunities for worship and service as we deepen our communion with God and strengthen our witness to others. We begin a New Year in the Lord with a commitment to live each moment in the presence of Christ and to use each day to bring Him honor and glory. We begin a New Year reflecting on the revelation of God's love, on His forgiveness, on our journey, and we anticipate the blessings of His power and grace in the days to come.


*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

### **The Winter Pascha, Chapter 27 The Ever-Virgin Mary**

The Gospels teach and the liturgy proclaims that Jesus Christ was born on earth from the Virgin Mary... Jesus is the Son of God. God is His Father from all eternity.... He, and only He, can call the Most High God, *Abba, Father!* He does so in the pages of the gospels nearly two hundred times.

Jesus' father is God. Therefore He can have no human father. He has to be born of a virgin. Saint Matthew sees the virgin birth as the fulfillment of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)" (Mt 1:23; Is 7:14). Although scholars dispute the word "virgin" in this text, saying that it can also mean "young woman," it is clear from the Greek word used by the evangelist, as well as from his entire narrative, that he literally means a virgin who has had no intercourse with a human husband.

In the Gospels there is no discrepancy at all concerning the virgin birth of Jesus. ... Mary asks the angel directly about how the birth can take place when she says, "I have no husband" (Lk 1:34). We all know the angel's answer. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (Lk 1:35)

The Bible never mentions Mary having any children but Jesus. ...Jesus' "brothers and sisters" are mentioned, but there is no explicit statement that these are Mary's children. The traditional interpretation from the earliest times in the Church is that these are either cousins of Jesus or children of Joseph by another marriage....When hanging on the Cross, Jesus formally commended His mother to the beloved disciple John, which would have been a meaningless act if his "brethren" were in fact Mary's own children (Jn 19:26-27) ... Mary's ever-virginity was witnessed as Church dogma by the fifth ecumenical council in 553 and is endlessly repeated in the Church's liturgical worship....There is rather the clear understanding of the uniqueness of Mary, the one "blessed among women." whom "all generations will call...blessed," given to the church as the living image of all those who are saved because they "hear the word of God and keep it." The place of Mary in God's plan of salvation affirms her ever-virginity more than any particular biblical text or any specific scriptural reference for those who have come to know her in the mystical life of the Church. 

## Chapter 28 Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

The adoration of Jesus by the wise men from the East is part of the Nativity celebration in the Orthodox Church....the spiritual and theological significance of the coming of the kings with their gifts is of paramount importance.

The coming of the wise men also bears witness to the fact that Jesus has come as King and Lord for all people, and not only the Jews. In the persons of the Persian kings the church sees all the peoples of the earth and all the kingdoms of men.

The gifts of the Magi are of particular significance. The gift of gold is taken as the sign that Jesus is the king of Israel, of the entire universe, and of the kingdom of God to come. This is a crucial part of the Christmas story in the gospels. It caused Herod to kill all the “male children in Bethlehem and in all the region who were two years old and under...”



The gift of frankincense is taken by the liturgy to signify the fact that Jesus is God, since incense is used for worship, and only God may be worshipped.

The gift of Myrrh is for the Lord Jesus who has come to die as the perfect sacrifice for the people. For the dead were anointed with myrrh, as Jesus Himself was anointed, according to the scriptures, at the time of His death (Jn 19:39-40).

In the gifts of the Magi, therefore, are contained all the mysteries of Christ's coming...the purpose of His appearance on earth. He is the royal King, the son of David, whose kingdom will have no end. He is the victim, the Lamb of God, who by His death takes away the sins of the world. And He is God Himself, the divine Son of the father: “Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven...”as the Nicene Creed declares.

The contemplation of the wise men and their gifts is an integral and lasting part of the Church's celebration of the Lord's Winter Pascha.



*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

### **Chapter 30 The Circumcision of the Lord**

On the eighth day of the feast of the Nativity, which also happens to be the first day of the civil new year, the church celebrates the Lord's circumcision and His receiving the name Jesus, which means savior.

According to the Church's liturgy, the Lord underwent circumcision in order to fulfill the law of Moses, which no one had been able to fulfill before. In performing "everything according to the law" (Lk 2:39), the Messiah finds it fitting "to fulfill all righteousness" (Mt 3:15). In this sense He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets; not only by doing what was written of Him, but also by doing all things that everyone should do if they truly fulfilled the Word of God.

In performing everything exactly according to the law, the Lord shows that He has come to be a servant, and to identify Himself completely with His sinful creatures. This is God's divine humility, His exceedingly great lovingkindness and compassion, His ineffable and unspeakable humiliation and condescension to us who are lost. For He not only is found "in the likeness of men," but He empties Himself of His divine glory, and takes on the form of a slave" (Phil 2:7-8. He submits to the high priest's knife, enduring the sign of complete submission to God, the act which expresses the total helplessness and weakness of unholy creatures before their Holy Creator. Words cannot convey the condescension of the Lord in His willingness to be circumcised. It is an act of self-emptying humiliation which is wholly ineffable.

In allowing Himself to be circumcised, our Lord delivers His people from the curse of the law and frees them from the ritual signs of the covenant based on law. The law of God is not itself a curse..."the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good" (Rom 7:12). The problem is that no one can keep the law. If we were to be judged by the works of the law, all would perish. For this reason the Messiah comes, to do in mortal flesh that which no one else could do, so that by faith in Him all who believe may be made righteous before God.

Because of His total righteousness, ritualistic and moral, physical and spiritual, legal and ethical, Jesus the Messiah liberates His people from everything that belongs to this world and opens to them the life of the coming age of God's kingdom.

In celebrating the Winter Pascha, the faithful come to know for themselves that truly "if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). ☩

### **Chapter 31 The Lord's Epiphany in the Jordan**

Like the liturgical celebration of the Lord's Nativity, the festival of His Epiphany in the Jordan at the time of His baptism is inaugurated with a prefeast celebration of five days. And also like the services of the Nativity, many hymns of the Epiphany prefeast are patterned after those of the springtime Pascha of the Lord's death and resurrection.

The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "appearance." It is used for the event of Christ's baptism because it was in the Jordan being baptized by John the Forerunner, that Jesus appeared to the world and manifested Himself as the Messiah, the Son of God, one of the Holy Trinity.

Baptism is the symbol of death and resurrection; Christ came to the earth in order to die and be raised. Baptism is a symbol of repentance of sin, and its forgiveness; Christ came as the Lamb of God who takes upon Himself the sin of the world in order to take it away. Baptism is a symbol of sanctification; Christ has come to sanctify the whole creation. Baptism is a symbol, finally, of radical renewal. When one is baptized the old is over and the new has come. And Christ has appeared to earth to bring all things to an end, and to make all things new. The act of baptism, therefore, contains in symbol the entire mystery of Christ, the whole purpose of His coming..

Christ did not need to be baptized for Himself. This is made perfectly clear in the gospels. He had to be baptized for our sake, in order "to fulfill all righteousness." (see Mt 3:13-17)

The baptism of John was a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." The Lord Jesus had no need of repentance. As God's Son in human flesh He committed no sin. His baptism, therefore, manifests His complete identification with His sinful creatures. He literally becomes one of us, not only in our humanity, but in our sinfulness; not only in our life on earth, but also in our death. For as the apostle Paul has written, "For our sake He [God the Father] made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor 5:21).

In the Church's celebration of the Lord's Epiphany in the Jordan, the faithful are enabled to see Jesus made like them in every respect, entering the waters to identify with their fallen condition in order to bring it to an end and to create them anew for life in the kingdom of God. ✨

*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

### Chapter 32 the Manifestation of the Trinity

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, which contains all the mysteries of our salvation, is not only His epiphany as the Messiah, the Suffering Servant of the Lord. At Jesus' Baptism the mystery of all mysteries is clearly revealed to the world for the very first time. It is the open revelation, hinted at dimly in the "shadows" of the previous covenants of Israel, that the one true God is essentially a Father.

With the manifestation of God's Son as Jesus the Christ of Israel and the Savior of the world, God's Holy Spirit is also manifested as a unique divine person. That too was dimly prefigured in His activities in the old covenants, but is now revealed in His personal glory. He is the "Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father" (Jn 15:26). He descends personally on the man Jesus, anointing Him in His humanity, and all people in Him, showing Him to the world as the promised Messiah, and shining forth from Him upon all who receive Him as their Lord and God.

This is the unique doctrine of orthodox christianity: the worship of the Divine Trinity "one in essence and undivided." It was foreshadowed in the theophanies of the Old Covenant of Israel. It was approached in the contemplations of the holy people of various "world religions." It was obscurely discovered in the speculations of the mystical philosophers of all nations, especially the Greeks. And it was clearly made manifest in the "final and everlasting covenant of peace" of the one true God with His people, first revealed in the Messiah's epiphany at His baptism in the Jordan. This worship stands at the heart of the celebration of the Winter Pascha in the Orthodox Church.

*Seeing You, O Christ our God,  
Drawing near to him in the river Jordan,  
John said: Why are You who are without defilement come to Your  
servant, O Lord? In whose name shall I baptize You?  
Of the Father? But You bear Him in Yourself.  
Of the Son? But You are Yourself the Son made flesh.  
Of the Holy Spirit? But You know that from Your own lips You give  
Him to the faithful. O God who has appeared, have mercy on us!  
The Trinity was made manifest in the Jordan,  
For the Father, supreme in divinity, bore witness saying, He who is  
here baptized is My beloved Son; and the Spirit, equal in divinity,  
rested upon Him, whom the people bless and exalt above all forever.*

### Chapter 33 The River Jordan

The river Jordan plays a very important role in the Bible. Before it becomes the river in which Jesus the Messiah is baptized, it is revealed as the river which bounds the “promised land.” To cross the Jordan, for the people of Israel, was to enter into the fulfillment of the Lord’s promises. It was to enter into the “land flowing with milk and honey,” the place where God would dwell with His people providing them with the endless blessings of His presence.

In the New Testament, with its spiritual and mystical fulfillment of the Old, to cross the Jordan was to enter into the Kingdom of God, to experience the fulness of the life of the age to come. The fact that Moses was not blessed to cross the Jordan thus became a symbol of the fact that the Law by itself could not save Israel or the world. It had to be Joshua, which literally means *Savior*, and is the Hebrew form of the Greek word *Jesus*, who leads the people across the Jordan and into the promised land, thus symbolizing the saving action of the new Joshua, Jesus the messianic Savior, in the covenant of grace.

As the waters of the sea parted to allow God’s people to pass through as if on dry land at their exodus from Egypt, so also at the entry into the land of promise the river Jordan made way for God’s people to pass through into the place of their final destination. (Josh 3:11-13)

The river Jordan was also parted by the passage of Elijah and Elisha, an event also recalled at the liturgy of Epiphany. (2 Kings 2) And it was from the Jordan that Elijah was taken up into heaven in order to return again, as the tradition developed, to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. (See Mt 17:9-13) It was also in the Jordan that Naaman the Syrian was cleansed from his leprosy, a sign referred to by Jesus as a prefiguration of the salvation of all people, not only those of Israel. (Lk 4:27) In the account of Naaman’s cure the special significance of the Jordan is stressed once again. (2 Kings 5:10-14)

Can we not be washed in just any river and be clean? God’s answer is, No. Only in the Jordan, in the baptism of Christ are we cleansed from all of our sins. Only through the Jordan do we enter into the land of the living, the promised land of God’s kingdom. Only by the sanctified waters of the Jordan does God sanctify us forever.

*But You, O Savior, have fulfilled all that was appointed,  
That You might save the world by Your Epiphany,  
O Only Lover of Man!*



*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

### Chapter 34 The Great Blessing of Water

The rite of the Great Blessing of Water is celebrated in the Orthodox church after the vesperal divine liturgy on the eve of the feast of the Epiphany, and after the eucharistic liturgy on the day itself. It begins with the chanting of special hymns with the incensing of the water, and concludes with bible readings, petitions and prayers.

The water placed in a large receptacle in the midst of the church, or freely flowing from a natural source, is decorated with candles and flowers as the symbol of the beautiful world of God's original creation through His Word and Spirit—the same beautiful world which shall become the Kingdom of God at the end of the ages through its redemption by the Word

Christ, and the

People some-  
blessing of water,  
drinking it and

**...all flesh and all  
matter is sanctified.**

Incarnate, Jesus

same Holy Spirit.

times think that the

and the practice of

sprinkling it on people

and things, is a “paganism” which has crept into the Christian Church.

We know, however, that this ritual was practiced by the People of God before the coming of Christ, as well as at the time of His manifestation.

(See John 5-7) And we know that it has existed among Christians from very early times, being witnessed from the beginning especially in connection with the practice of baptism.

God has sent His only-begotten son “not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” (Jn 3:17) He has sent the Lord Jesus Christ not only to save people's souls, but to save their bodies, and not only to save human beings, but to save the entire creation.

Since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has appeared in the world, manifesting Himself in His baptism in the Jordan, all flesh and all matter is sanctified. Everything is made pure and holy in Him. Everything which is corrupted and polluted by the sinful works of men is cleansed and purified by the gracious works of God. All death-dealing powers of the devil which poison the good world of God's creation are destroyed. All things are again made new. Through the “prime element” of water on the feast of the Epiphany the entire creation is shown to be sanctified by God's Word through the same Spirit of God who “in the beginning...was moving over the face of the waters.” (Gen 1:2)



### Chapter 35 The Grace of God has Appeared

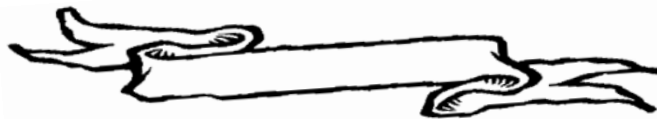
The grace of God, is said to make its epiphany for the salvation of all people. Divine grace shines forth so that something can happen in the lives of people while still living in this world. What happens is that we are to react to God's grace by specific works of conversion. We are to respond to God's grace by renouncing impiety and worldly passions which are our lustful cravings for ego-gratification and fleshly pleasures which inevitably lead us to hostility, anger, distress, frustration and depression. All this disappears when God's grace appears. What comes instead is sobriety and uprightness; dispassion, self-control, interior freedom and voluntary self-determination according to God's will. This is the only genuine liberation that exists. All other "liberation" is in fact real liberation; genuine liberation that exists. other "liberation" is enslavement.

For the grace of God liberates; the power of the devil, working through the ego and the flesh, enslaves.

Thus there are two epiphanies; two manifestations and appearances. The first is for our salvation and redemption which God has accomplished in Christ "not because of any deeds done by us in righteousness, but by virtue of his own mercy." And the second is when, being "justified (or made righteous) by his grace," we actually enter into the eternal life of God's kingdom. We participate in the second only on condition that we love the first; and prove our love by our godly lives fulfilled in good deeds. (see Eph 4:7-33 for the same ideas)

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all people. The salvation which God's grace brings in its appearance is that all people might do the good deeds that Christ Himself has done, and so attain unto the measure of the stature of His fulness, thus being filled with all the fulness of God. The apostle Paul sums this up for himself in his second letter to Timothy. (2 Tim 4:7-8)

If we love the Lord's epiphany, and prove it by our zeal for good deeds, then we too shall receive our crowns from Christ, the righteous judge, on the Day of His final appearing. ✨

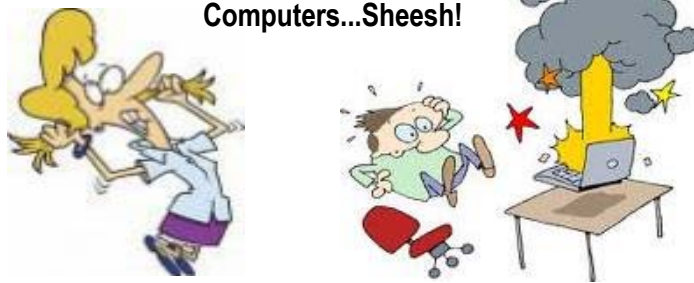


*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

## WORD SEARCH FOR JANUARY

M C W T R Q R R S T B A S I L S L H  
 T A L Y A S U I M Y H T U E U J B W  
 C S X E Z T G L J V Z F L I R T C A  
 C K E I M T I D J M W L R S Y V W H  
 N D Q N M E M A J P I A U T F P P T  
 M E J R S U N G N R C I E Y W M S Y  
 I P Z R N L S T Y A S P K W Y T M R  
 H H K T I T W C M A I Y H R Q W R A  
 P R J T C T T O N P G N T V K N O U  
 A A F F E S K A H Q L O R N R B T N  
 R I K G S Y H A K Z W H F T T M S A  
 E M T E K T N Z G V T T P V N I W J  
 S T M N A Y P V D I K N T E X B O F  
 L H Y E T B F B M X V A W A D J N L  
 M E R V I J S O G D X Y N D D T S G  
 K S O I N M T E G K E Y A I N E Z B  
 P Y G E G H M N L A S A N I N G G R  
 B R E V Y T C I R C U M C I S I O N  
 M I R E H H M S R M I T C H C R D X  
 M A G J T C D W R N B C D W X K K M  
 B N T G C A N L Q H M Z I N T V F L  
 K Q S N Y T B L R K P M A L A C H I

**Computers...Sheesh!**



## WORD SEARCH LIST FOR JANUARY

Anthony	Icicles	StBasil
Athanasius	JanuaryThaw	StGregory
Circumcision	Macarius	Synaxis
Clement	Malachi	Tatiana
Ephraim the Syrian	Maximus	Timothy
Epiphany	NewYearsDay	Zenia
Euthymius	Nina	
Genevieve	Owlsnest	
Iceskating	Seraphim	
	Snowstorms	
	St Cyril	



## BIBLE BRAIN WORKOUT FOR JANUARY

401. What river is described in Scripture as ancient?
402. Who complained that he was tossed up and down like a locust?
403. Where do we read of a captain whose sword fell out of its sheath?
404. What is said to make maidens cheerful?
405. Who deceived a king by pretending to be mad?
406. Where are eagles referred to as bald?
407. Which king asked, "Is there any word from the Lord?"
408. Where do we read of 700 chosen soldiers who were all left-handed?
409. When was a sick man bidden to set his house in order because he must die?
410. Who are the only women described in the Bible as kissing one another?

*Answers on page 19*

*How did you score? A+ Bible Scholar 6 or more Correct ; A Superior 5 +correct; B+ Pretty good 3+ correct: C Fair 2+ correct; Less than 2, an opportunity to make reading the Bible daily a wonderful habit!*

*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

*Q. What's a fast, drug-free, cost-free way of pulling yourself out of a mild case of the blues that works for most people?*

A. Just act happy, says Hope College psychologist, David Myers in "The Pursuit of Happiness." Try a small smile. It'll feel good. Now try a broad smile. You'll feel even better. Doesn't matter that you're just faking it. "Going through the motions will trigger the emotions," he says. It's the same with gait: Take long, strong strides, arms swinging, eyes straight ahead and you'll feel a mood upsurge; slow it to a shuffle, eyes downcast, and your spirits too will drag. Surely you've noticed that when you're in a dour mood and the phone rings, you fake a cheery tone, and by the time you hang up, the sullenness is gone. Such is the value of social occasions—calls, visits, dinners out. "They impel us to behave as if we were happy, which in fact helps free us from our unhappiness," Myers says.

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## EVER SEEN A TRANSPARENT BUTTERFLY?

Glasswing Butterfly lives in South America. A butterfly with transparent wings is rare and beautiful. As delicate as finely blown glass, the presence of this rare tropical gem is used by rain forest ecologists as an indication of high habitat quality.



Rivaling the refined beauty of a stained glass window, the translucent wings of the Glasswing butterfly shimmer in the sunlight like polished panes of turquoise, orange, green, and red. All things beautiful do not have to be full of color to be noticed; in life that which is unnoticed has the most power.

This is really something! Isn't the artistry of God breathtaking!!

*Submitted by June K..*

**CRYPTOGRAM CHALLENGE FOR JANUARY**

The following message is written in code using regular letters. Your task is to figure out which real letters the code letters stand for.

Q V V B I E H A U X E K H B O H G K J Z P  
H J B A H E Q U H N J N D O N L , Q J L H B  
A E N D H U Q Z V K D N E L N I U E H J K ,  
D N E E K A E N N D , D N E  
I N E E K I U H N J , D N E H J B U E X I U H N J  
H J E H O R U K N X B J K B B .

To make this more of a challenge cover up or have somebody cross out some or even all of the Cheat Chart!!!

**CHEAT CHART--IT GIVES YOU SOME OF THE LETTERS.**

<b>REAL LETTERS</b>	<b>e i f n o r s</b>
<b>CODE LETTERS</b>	<b>K H D J N E B</b>

**Tougher Challenge**

X O M I L M V A X F F K P C Z X K X N X F F H Z X S V  
T S L Q H A Z P S Z N Z V ; X O M H A Z S Z V A X F F  
D Z O L Q L S Z M Z X H A , O Z P H A Z S V L S S L K ,  
O L S Y S N P O I , O Z P H A Z S V A X F F H A Z S Z D Z  
X O N Q L S Z C X P O : T L S H A Z T L S Q Z S  
H A P O I V X S Z C X V V Z M X K X N .  
L=0

See page 19 for additional clues if you really need them.

*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

## WHY ME?

Nobody likes to go through difficulties in life and, when things happen, we tend to cry out, “Why me?” The following might bring to mind the question, “Why *not* me?”



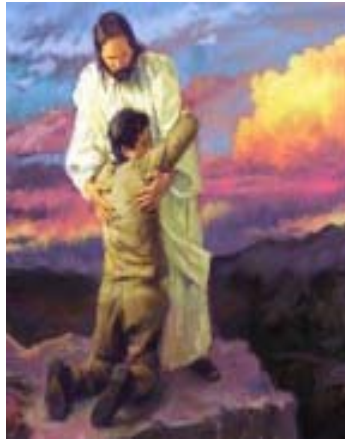
***If you never were ill or in pain, how would you know that the Lord Jesus is the Healer?***

***If you never had any suffering, how would you have even a tiny inkling of what He went through?***

*(“And I sought to understand this; it was difficult in my sight, until I came into God’s holy place...”  
Psalm 72 (73), OSB)*



***If you never were in trouble, how would you learn to trust that He will help you get through it?***



***If you had all power, how would you learn to depend on Him?***

***If your life was perfect, you would never need to call out to Jesus. And you would never know the ultimate, complete joy of living in Him.***



*(“I pleaded with the Lord three times that it [the thorn] might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness’.” 2 Cor 12:8-9 OSB)*

*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR WINTER DRIVERS

❄️ **Keep your headlights clean with car wax.** ❄️ ❄️

*Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights, rub it in and wipe off the excess. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights - lasts 6 weeks.* ❄️

❄️ **Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol!**

*Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.*

❄️ **Ice-proof your windows with vinegar! Send Frost on its way!**

*Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water—preventing water from freezing!* ❄️

❄️ **Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream!**

*Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.*

❄️ **De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer!** ❄️

*Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key & the lock and the problems solved!* ❄️

*Submitted by Kathy B.*

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## RAMBLINGS OF A RETIRED MIND

\* I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So, I'm wearing my garage door opener. I also made a cover for my hearing aid and now I have what they call blue teeth, I think.

\* You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

\* I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!

\* When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

\* Employment application blanks always ask who is to be notified in case of an emergency. I think you should write, 'A Good Doctor!'

"Enjoy Your Days & Love Your Life" Because: "Life is a journey to be savored."

*Submitted by ????????*

**More WHY WOMEN LIVE LONGER THAN MEN**



Oh yeah! That's really safe.



**Kids are funny!**

After having been told several times that his name means “five,” my son Quinn was very excited to be “finally” celebrating his fifth birthday. So that morning, he ran into my bedroom and woke me up with a big hug. Then, opening his hand and extending his little fingers, he proudly announced, “Look, Mom, I’m a handfull.” *From Woman’s World.*

*Submitted by Elsie S.*

**BIBLE BRAIN WORKOUT answers for JANUARY**

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 401. Judg. 5:21      | 406. Mic. 1:16    |
| 402. Ps. 109:23      | 407. Jer. 37:17   |
| 403. 2 Sam. 20:8     | 408. Judg. 20:16  |
| 404. Zech. 9:17      | 409. Isa. 38:1    |
| 405. 1 Sam. 21:12-15 | 410. Ruth 1:9, 14 |

V=s

S=r

*May you have a Happy and Blessed New Year!*

# **THE FRUIT BASKET**

18893 Howe Road  
Strongsville, OH 44136

**Sunshine Greetings from  
St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral**



## **CALENDAR for JANUARY**

- 1 Circumcision of Christ**
- 5 Eve of Theophany, strict fast  
& Great Blessing of Water**
- 6 Theophany of Jesus Christ**