

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Sacristan

Reader Julius Kovach,
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Erin Zawolowycz
Ambo Editor

Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days

5:00 PM Confessions

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days

8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

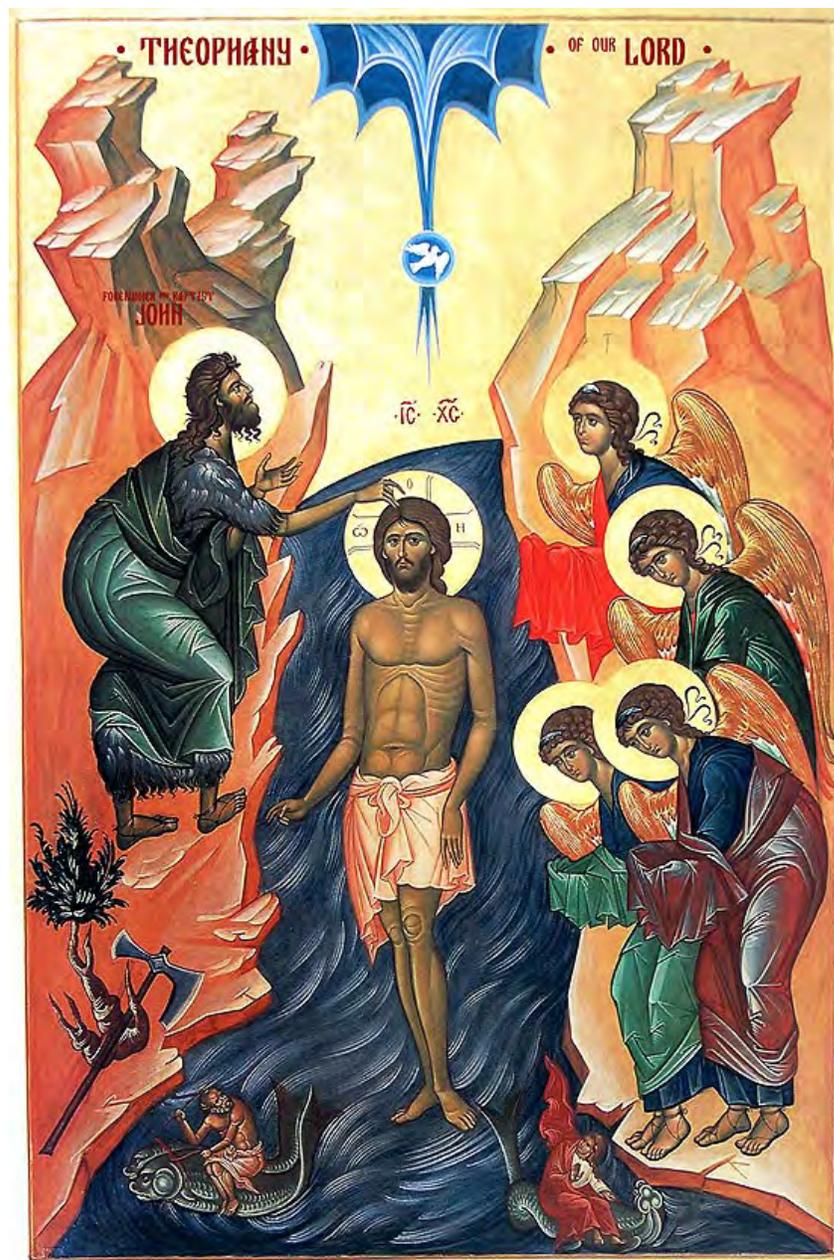
Please check weekly schedule
for specific days (last page)

AMBO: Articles for publica-
tion should be submitted to:

ambo-theodosius

[@googlegroups.com](mailto:ambo-theodosius@googlegroups.com)

JANUARY 3, 2021
FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY
HOLY PROPHET MALACHI



Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

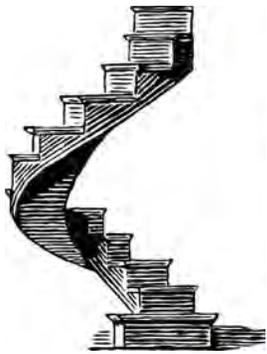
On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

FAITH ENRICHMENT ON HOLD UNTIL 1/14/2021

Faith Enrichment is on hold until January 14th, 2021. Please contact Subdeacon Leon Felon at (440) 666-7601 if you have any questions.



Cathedral Steps

Donations are also being accepted for the \$3500 repair of all the steps, rails, and ramps surrounding the cathedral. To donate, please mark your donation for **Cathedral steps repair**, or send it to Eric in the office. Any questions can be directed to Subdeacon Michael Tabeling. We are waiting for a window of several dry 40° days so that the compounds used can cure properly.

Please Help us Find the Homebound

We are requesting everyone's assistance in finding any homebound persons that have escaped our notice. If you know of someone who is homebound, of any age or for any reason, please send information to Eric Seddon in the office. 1(216)574-4886, or StTheodosiusCathedral@protonmail.com

Tree Removal

The trees in need of removal behind the garage have been cleared. The work was done for \$3800, and we are accepting donations to cover this cost. If you wish to donate please mark the donation as **Tree Removal**, and send it to Eric at the church office. Direct any questions to Paul Z or Deacon Daniel. Much of the cost has been covered but we still have a little way left to go!



From the Desk of Fr. Adamcio...

Happy New Year!

I know it might sound a bit trite, but the sentiment is from the heart, and meant sincerely.

As we look back on 2020, it is by the grace of God that we have survived all the difficult challenges, spiritual and physical, emotional and mental. The struggle is not yet over, but we have come very far in this journey.

The world looks at the beginning of a new year. For the Orthodox Church, the new year started in September. But yet, the Church in Her wisdom gives us a "new beginning" with the upcoming feast of Theophany. You may have heard this feast-day as the *Epiphany*, but the more correct term is *Theophany*. An "epiphany" is something, some event which enlightens us: and *Aha!* Moment. Anyone can have such an epiphany. However, *Theophany* literally means: the showing forth of God. This is very different from a general epiphany.

The Gospel reading for today is taken from the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (Mark 1:18): *The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.'" We hear about the preparation for the coming of the Messiah preached by St. John the Baptist.*

On the Feast of Theophany, we continue reading from St. Mark's Gospel wherein Jesus is Baptized. He then goes into the wilderness, fasting forty days and nights, in order to prepare Himself for His earthly ministry. Therefore, it can be said that Theophany is a "new beginning" for our Lord, which is, and can be, a new beginning for us.

In the secular world, the New Year is a time to make "resolutions," ideas and hope to change our lives for the better during the next 365 days. Many times these are pie-crust resolutions: easily made-easily broken! However, looking forward to this great Feast as the beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, may it be to us a new beginning as well!

Let us take the time to begin anew our spiritual journey. Let us attend the Divine Services as often as we can. Let us come to Holy Confession and receive Holy Communion more frequently and earnestly. Let us give alms. Let us help one another in our daily lives, not looking for anything or recognition in return. Let us love each other as our Lord Jesus Christ loves us!

May this coming year, through the struggles and difficulties we have yet to endure, be filled with love, joy, and peace!

BLESSING OF THE HOME BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD

All members of the family should be present. On a table place a small, clean bowl that has been partially filled with the Holy Water brought from church. A candle is positioned behind it. If the family has an icon of the Feast, it should also be placed conspicuously on the table which has been covered with a clean white cloth. For sprinkling, a small branch of pine or basil which has been bound at the end with ribbon can be used. Have these placed so that family members can face east.

Begin: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who are everywhere and fill all things. Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life. Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. **3X**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity: have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **3X**

Glory to the Father...now and ever...Amen

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Troparion for Theophany...in Tone 1

When **You**, O Lord, were baptized in the **Jordan**
the worship of the Trinity was made **manifest**
For the **voice** of the Father bore **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 **revealed** Yourself ///
and enlightened the world, **glory** to You.

Then this Prayer

O God our Savior, the True Light, Who were baptized in the Jordan by the Prophet John, and were willing to enter the house of Zacchaeus, bringing salvation to him and to those who lived there, You, the same Lord, keep safe from harm those of us who dwell herein; grant us Your blessing, purification and bodily health, and all of our petitions which are for salvation and life everlasting; for You are blessed, together with Your Father, Who is from everlasting, and Your All-holy and Good, and Life-creating Spirit. Amen

At the conclusion, take up the bowl and sprinkler and proceed to sprinkle the whole house with Holy Water. While one member of the family does this another holds the lighted candle. Those remaining may sing the Troparion once again. If time permits, the Kontakion may also be taken

The Kontakion of Theophany in the 4th Tone

Today You appeared to the **universe**
and Your light, O Lord, has **shone** on us
who with understanding **praise** You
You have come and **revealed** Yourself ///
O Light Un**approachable**!

When the blessing is complete and the family is gathered at the table, complete the observance by praying

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Having said the prayer, venerate the icon and rejoice with others in your family, which is the Church in your home. It is a good idea to leave the icon in a special place close to where the family dines or prays until the Leavetaking of the Feast which falls seven days afterwards. If the blessing is taken at other times the same procedures are followed.



PRAYER REQUESTS



Departed:

Joseph Rusynyk

Elsie Conrad

Sandra Brello

Special Intentions:

Deacon Paul Mitchell (*Tom Mitchell's father*)

Subdeacon Theodore Lentz

Reader Paul Pangrace

Arlene Czajkowski

Child Mary Kate Zweidunger

Child Vivian Sherer

Melissa (*cousin of Mary Ann Kovach*)

Elizabeth (Betty) Balasz

Marie Borland

Horia Dascalescu

Debra Ellis

Gregory Galan

Aleksei Green

Virginia Haupt (*Lisa Theodore's mother*)

Don Hinkl

Matthew Hunly (*Phyllis Gindlesperger's brother-in-law*)

Diane Kearsey (*Janice Tkacz's sister*)

Annamarie Luvison (*Daughter of Kaite Ellis-Luvison*)

Chris Magee (*Erin Zawolowycz's brother*)

Paul Mihal

Natalya Miller (*Arlene Neale's great-niece*)

Andrew Mytrohovich

Debra Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's sister*)

Grace Parhamovich (*Karen Felon's mother*)

Jim Paulitzky (*Jerry Czajkowski's son-in-law*)

James Peter Petkac

Susan Reese (*friend of Jerry & Arlene Czajkowski and Betty Balasz*)

Elena Rich (*Jerry Czajkowski's daughter*)

Andrew Sykaluk

Elaine Sudnick (*Joy Pfeiffer's mother*)

Tony Sykaluk (*friend of Lydia Mytrohovich*)

Janice Tkacz

Joanne Theodore (*Lisa Theodore's mother-in-law*)

Gayle Vidovitch

Eleanor Wachovec (*friend of Karen Felon*)

Robert Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Colleen Walsh (*friend of the Felons*)

Erin Zawolowycz

Kristin Robinson

Janet Budko (*sister-in-law of Arlene Neale*)

Laurie Budko (*niece of Arlene Neale*)

Mary Kay Weber

Mirta Szewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Mickey O'Brien (*friend of Arlene*)

Kelly Buehner

Anna Sykaluk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Edward Zewczyk (*friend of Tatiana*)

Joe Czajkowski (*son of Jerry*)

Patrick Gallagher

Elliott Udell (*grandson of Michael Udell*)

Constance Zimmerman (*Cindy's cousin*)

William Nasi (*brother-in-law of Kenneth Kovach*)

Jonathan Maas (*friend of Eric Seddon*)

Michelle Frampton (*cousin of Fr. Zdinak*)

Steve Bondor

Louis Klinar (*father of Bob Klinar*)

Jeanne Charles (*friend of Arlene Neal/Czajkowski*)

Carol & Bert Nielsen (*Paul Pangrace's sister & brother-in-law*)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 3

<p>Jan 3 John 20:11-18 2 Tim 4:5-8 Mark 1:1-8</p>	<p>Isa 49:8-15 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Matt 3:13-17 Gen 1:1-13 Exod 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29 Exod 15:22-16:1 Josh 3:7-8, 15-17 4[2] Kings 2:6-14 4[2] Kings 5:9-14 Isa 1:16-20 Gen 32:1-10 Exod 2:5-10 Judg 6:36-40 3[1] Kings 18:30-39 4[2] Kings 2:19-22 Isa 49:8-15 Heb 12:25-26, 13:22-25 Luke 17:26-37 1 Cor 9:19-27</p>	<p>Luke 3:1-18 Isa 35:1-10 Isa 55:1-13 Isa 12:3-6 1 Cor 10:1-4 Mark 1:9-11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 6</p> <p>Mark 1:9-11 Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 Matt 3:13-17 Isa 35:1-10 Isa 55:1-13 Isa 12:3-6 1 Cor 10:1-4 Mark 1:9-11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 7</p> <p>James 1:19-27</p>	<p>Luke 18:31-34 Acts 19:1-8 John 1:29-34</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 8</p> <p>James 2:1-13 Luke 19:12-28</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 9</p> <p>Eph 6:10-17 Matt 4:1-11 Col 1:3-6 Luke 10:19-21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 10</p> <p>John 20:19-31 Eph 4:7-13 Matt 4:12-17</p>
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ST. THEODOSIUS IS NOW A SUBSCRIBER TO TITHE.LY

In response to requests to be able to donate electronically, we have set up a Tithe.ly account so people can donate either regularly or for special occasions online. Click here to see: <https://www.sttheodosius.org/donate>
Special thanks to Council Vice President Cathy Weber and our Webmaster Kate Zolikoff for making this happen.



Sunday, Jan 3

Forefeast of the Theophany
Holy Prophet Malachi
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM

Monday, Jan 4

Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

Tuesday, Jan 5

Eve of Theophany
6:00 PM Vigil and Great Blessing of Water

Wednesday, Jan 6

The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

2021



Thursday, Jan 7

Afterfeast of Theophany
Synaxis of John the Baptist

Friday, Jan 8

Ven. George the Chozebite, Abbot

Saturday, Jan 9

Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia
Great Vespers 6:00 PM

Sunday, Jan 10

Afterfeast of Theophany
St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa
3rd and 6th Hours read at 8:40 AM
Liturgy Begins 9:00 AM