



Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



Father Dave Urban, Pastor
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, Pastor Emeritus
Timothy Martin, Reader
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors
Matthew Peifer, Church Council President
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January 13, 2019

Volume IV

33rd Sunday after Pentecost / Leave-taking (Otdaniye) of Nativity / Sunday after Nativity and before Theophany / St. Peter Mogila, metropolitan of Kiev (1646)

9:10am – Canon & Carols (Koljady); 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 8 Liturgical Color: Gold

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19; Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
Additional collection for our Capital Improvement Fund



SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, January 14 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord and the Feast of St Basil the Great / New Year's Day

Friday, January 18 – A Day of Strict Fasting / 9:30 Royal Hours of the Feast of Theophany

Saturday, January 19 – 9:30 Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water on the Feast of Theophany / Annual House Blessings Begin

The opportunity for the Holy Mystery of Confession is available following every service.

Monday	St. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea (379)	Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19	Mark 12:13-17
Tuesday	St. Sylvester, pope of Rome (335)	Hebrews 4:1-13	Mark 12:18-27
Wednesday	St. Genevieve of Paris (502)	Hebrews 5:11-6:8	Mark 12:28-37
Thursday	Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles	Hebrews 7:1-6	Mark 12:38-44
### Friday	Prophet Micah (9th c. B.C.)	Hebrews 7:18-25	Mark 13:1-8
Saturday	Repose of St. Theophan the Recluse (1894)	Hebrews 13:17-21	Luke 18:2-8

Lets imitate Christ & the Saints & Feast as they did! (NO FASTING until Theophany Eve); ### Strict Fast

Sunday, January 20 – 34th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after the Feast of Theophany of our Lord / Feast of the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

9:20am – Canon; 9:30 – Divine Liturgy Tone 1 Liturgical Color: Gold

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Sunday After / Acts 19:1-8 Forerunner; Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17 / John 1:29-34
Youth Sunday

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A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

Christ Is Born! (Glorify Him!)

Christos Raždajetsja! (Slavite Jeho!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! Please join us downstairs for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon!

If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Father Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY



Tuesday, January 22 – Parastas for all aborted babies

Sunday, January 27 – Additional Collection for our Community Outreach / 40th Day Panachida

Thursday, January 31 – 9:30am Moleben to St. Nectarios with holy anointing

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PARISH BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

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Royal Hours for the Feast of Theophany will be on Friday morning, January 18th from 9:30am to about 10:45am. Come and see what this beautiful service has to offer.

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House Blessings will begin 1/19. Fr Dave is interested in visiting and catching up with EVERYONE this coming Theophany season.



Envelopes – Interested in 2019 envelopes for the church? Additional boxes are available. When one uses an envelope to make their offering to the church, you will receive an end of year summary for tax purposes. Please see Father Dave to get yours.

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New Directory – Our newly revised St. John the Baptist Community Directory is available! Please pick up your family copy in the church hall.



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Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week (Sunday and Monday) by Tim Martin; Viola Peifer; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Sharon Peifer; Carol Lorenzi; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Mary Jane Hudak; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Patty Watson; Rich Mirilovich; Cindy Pavilonis; Margaret Spirnak; Margaret Rusnak; John Kirish.

"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

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Poinsettias – Please plan to take a few poinsettias home with you next Sunday!

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Sign Up Sheets – The much-anticipated 2019 sign up sheets for our Coffee Social Ministry and Sponsoring Bulletins are available in the church hall and vestibule. IF every family takes the coffee social for one week – the year will be filled! Please consider being a part of this stewardship ministry of our church.

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Third Hour – After we finish having the Nativity or Theophany Canon sung prior to the Divine Liturgy, we will return to having the Third Hour. *This can be read or chanted. Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested in participating in this wonderful stewardship prayer opportunity!*

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Cards – Please consider repurposing your greeting cards and prior church calendar icon tops after the season concludes. The collection box is in the vestibule for the Holy Transfiguration Monastery. Thank you for giving back!

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Snowed In? Physically unable to make it to church? – Our diocese is blessed with the opportunity to watch our Cathedral's Divine Liturgy every Sunday at 9am. Of course, the best scenario is to attend the Divine Liturgy and receive the Eucharist. When limitations occur, please consider taking the time Sunday morning to pray with our brothers and sisters via the web. Go to www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/ to watch the *live broadcast*.

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Parish Stewardship Opportunities...

As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)

- Bring in a bag of CALCIUM CHLORIDE
 - Pray for our parish and it's future
 - Sponsor a Coffee Social
- Offer your time to help with possible snow

Our Stewardship Gift To God

Sunday, January 6

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 867
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 183
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 749
Community Outreach:	\$ 30

Total Collections:	\$ 1829
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 30
Relocation Fund:	\$ 410

Monday, January 7

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 1592
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 65
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 2160

Total Collections:	\$ 3817
Relocation Fund:	\$ 500

Give Generously: "For they gave according to their means... and beyond their means, of their own free will." 2 Cor 8:3

Relocation Updates – Please continue to talk with the Relocation Committee or Father with any thoughts or concerns about our next steps in our journey together. *(Committee includes: Sharon P, Larry M, Carol L, John K, John Righetti, Lynn M, Matt P, Peggy Rusnak, Rich M, Sharon D, Tim M, & Todd Tusick)*

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Coffee Social Steward Schedule

January 20: Available to you
 January 27: Available to you
 February 3: Available to you

The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!

Snow Removal Team – Snow is on it's way (at some point). Just a reminder that we will be looking for folks, as in the past, to offer some of their time prior to people getting to church on Sundays to help with snow removal. *Please let Father know if you will be able to come earlier to Church to assist with keeping the sidewalks clear.* Ideally we will have a rotation of people so that the same person is not doing it each snowfall.

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Visit Our Diocese On-Line

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
 Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
 FB: www.facebook.com/acroddiocese
 Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
 You Tube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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ORTHODOXY AROUND DA 'BURGH



Orthodoxy on Tap - The Pittsburgh Orthodox Young Adults (POYA) are heading to the South Hills. We will gather on **Tuesday, February 5th** at 7pm for the Pens Game and an informal Q&A with the clergy at Primanti Brothers (1539 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228). All young adults ages 21-39(ish) are welcome! Please email poyapittsburgh@gmail.com with suggestions for future locations and activities!

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Soup Sampling to benefit IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) will be on Saturday, **February 9th** from 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Mt. Lebanon across from the Galleria Mall (123 Gilkeson Rd., Pittsburgh, Pa 15228). *Sample five homemade soups for \$10 and then take a quart home for a \$10 donation.* Youth Groups & Children's Ministries from all jurisdictions will be assembling health kits. All area youth are invited! Donations are needed to purchase bulk health kit supplies. To sponsor kits, call Nick Terezis at 724-282-5198. You can register to purchase soup at: iocc.org/Pittsburgh

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

The Nun Melania

Commemorated on Jan. 13/Dec. 31

(*New Year's Eve)

The Venerable Melania the Younger was a devoted wife who from a young age was "stung by Divine love". She was born into a wealthy Christian family that sought to make her heiress, and so was married at a very young age against her will to a young man. Though it was her desire to live alone and in chastity, she found in both herself and her husband the endurance



toward Christ. After their two children died young, as well as Melania's father, they made a new life for themselves completely dedicated to the service of God. They began to visit the sick, took in wanderers, and provided means to everyone who came to them, to everyone they found in need. After her husband passed away, Melania carried out her blessed desire to build a men's monastery on Mt. Olivet, the site of our Lord's Ascension. She surrendered her life in peace in 439 AD.

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SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"Of all the afflictions that burden the human race, there is not one, whether spiritual or bodily, that cannot be healed by the Holy Scriptures." +Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship

¹¹For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's^[a] gospel. ¹²For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, ¹⁶was pleased to reveal his Son to^[b] me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

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Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

The Escape to Egypt

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his

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mother by night, and departed to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more."

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ²⁰"Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

LIVING ORTHODOXY

Leavetaking / Otdaniye / Apodosis

Christmas Day was last Monday and today, Sunday, we celebrate the leave-taking (*otdaniye*). On this day, we celebrate the Feast essentially as we did on the Feast Day. We open and close the Feasting period celebrating the Feast with the special Anitphons, Tropar, Kondak, etc..

Here's information from OrthodoxWiki.org:

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The **leavetaking** (Slavonic: *отдание* (*otdaniye*); Greek: *ἀπόδοσις* (*apodosis*)) of a feast is the final day a feast is celebrated in the Church. In most cases it follows an afterfeast. On the leavetaking, most elements [*tropar, kondak, etc...*] of the festal services are appointed to be served again. Pascha and most First and Second Class feasts have leavetakings.

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SPIRITUAL VITAMIN FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY – NEW YEAR’S EVE

“Why did not the Almighty create the world at once, but in six days? In order to teach man, by deeds, to perform his work gradually, not hurriedly, but with consideration.” +Saint John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt

MONDAY – FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND THE FEAST OF ST BASIL THE GREAT



”When you sit down to eat, pray. When you eat bread, do so thanking Him for being so generous to you. If you drink wine, be mindful of Him who has given it to you for your pleasure and as a relief in sickness. When you dress, thank Him for His kindness in providing you with clothes. When you look at the sky and the beauty of the stars, throw yourself at God’s feet and adore Him who in His wisdom has arranged things in this way. Similarly, when the sun goes down and when it rises, when you are asleep or awake, give thanks to God, who created and arranged all things for your benefit, to have you know, love and praise their Creator.” +St. Basil the Great

TUESDAY

“Everyone recognizes as vile those who are ungrateful to other people; even more so should we acknowledge as vile those who are ungrateful to the Lord God. The holy Apostle numbers the ingratitude of people among the vices of the people of the last time (II Timothy 3:2), that is, of the most depraved time.” - Metropolitan Gregory (Postnikov) of St. Petersburg

WEDNESDAY

“The fruit of a good upbringing is the preservation of the grace of Holy Baptism.” +St. Theophan the Recluse

THURSDAY

“Drink Holy Water as often as possible. It’s the best and most effective medicine. I say this not as a bishop, but as a doctor, from my experience in medicine.” +St. Luke of Simferopol

FRIDAY – EVE OF THEOPHANY – STRICT FAST DAY

“Fasting, prayer, alms, and every other good Christian deed is good in itself, but the purpose of the Christian life consists not only in the fulfillment of one or another of them. The true purpose of our Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. But fasting, prayer, alms and every good deed done for the sake of Christ is a means to the attainment of the Holy Spirit. Note that only good deeds done for the sake of Christ bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Everything else that is not done for the sake of Christ, even if it is good, does not bring us a reward in the life to come, not does it bring the grace of God in this life. This is why our Lord Jesus Christ said, ‘he who does not gather with me scatters’ (Matt. 12:30).” +St. Seraphim of Sarov, Conversation on the Goal of the Christian Life



SATURDAY - FEAST OF THEOPHANY

”The Christian life has not only its struggles and trials; it also has its consolations. Even though we must go from Tabor to Calvary, from Calvary we return to Tabor with Jesus. Herein lies the foretaste of heaven.” - Sister Marie-Bernard Soubirous

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PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs **

A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant name. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver him/her from sickness and bitter pain. Heal him/her so that he/she may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Anna Mae, Eleanor D., Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, Jane, Roberta, Gary, Lino, David, Louis, June, Helen, Steven, Doug, Joanne, Lynn, Mary, Kathy N., Luca, Barbara, Francis, Mark ...*through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; & St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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For the Special Intentions of... Metropolitan Gregory, Marianne, Steve, Christopher, Nicholas, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles *our seminarians:* Michael and Daniel, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, Lawrence, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Donald, Jane, Eleanor, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, John, Margaret, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

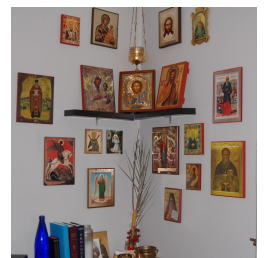
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Patronal Feast Days (Name’s Day): Melanie Shuster - Venerable Melania the Younger (1/13)

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Birthday Prayers for... Father’s aunt, Mary Urban (1/14), Brenda Labas (1/15), Fred G. Anton (1/16), Pañi Fedornock (1/16), *Father’s Godson,* Alex Schreiber (1/18), *Father’s Goddaughter,* Jenna Schreiber (1/18), Kenynn Christina Anton (1/19), Patricia Watson (1/19), *Father’s Nephew,* Nicholas Ditmore (1/19) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L’ita!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Dustin and Stephen
...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. John Maximovitch.

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For those preparing for Marriage... ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.

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Anniversary Prayers for... ...May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!

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For Expectant Mothers... Lauren, Pañi Marianna, Faith, Pañi Eleni, Hayley, Carley
...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St Irene Chrysovalantou.



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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky, Devin Meegan, and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John Smoley, +Julia Potoski, +Beatrice Stagon, +Charles Maresh, +Mildred Gavulich, +Carl Magidc, His Grace, +Bishop Athanasios, +Patricia French ...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. Eternal Memory!

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you would wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to Orthodox Christians.*

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK:

AMVON PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF NATIVITY (LEAVETAKING ON SUNDAY)

Christ our God, from before all ages, Thou shone forth from the eternal Father, and were not liable to suffering. Yet in these our days Thou took flesh and were born from a holy Virgin. Thou became poor for our sakes, that in Thy poverty we might become rich. As a newborn Child Thou wast wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, although as God Thou encompass all things. Master, receive this our worthless praise as Thou received the praise of the shepherds and the worship and gifts of the Magi. Grant that we may be worthy to join Thy heavenly host and be shown to be heirs of the joy of heaven
Thou prepared for those who rightly celebrate Thy Birth.
For Thou love mankind, and to Thee we give glory, together with Thy eternal Father, and Thy all-holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

AMVON PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD (MONDAY)

O Eternal God, Thou art holy and love the human race, and are tremendous in deeds and marvelous in works. Thou made the heavens, the earth, the seas and all that is in them. Thou kept Thy covenant and fulfilled all Thy decrees. For Thou did not abandon man utterly and keep him in the darkness of sin, but Thou sent Thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from Thy eternal bosom, that He might become flesh and be born, that He might be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger as a newborn Child, that He fulfill all that was spoken by the prophets, that He be circumcised on the eighth day, in Thy infinite wisdom a way to conquer the wisdom of the wicked and the plots of the evil one. On this day of Thy holy and light-bearing birth, Thou shone upon both the flock of the shepherds and the flock of the celebrated Hierarch Basil. Through his prayers show us to be imitators of his wondrous life. Keep Thy Church in peace and concord, and hear us and have mercy on us all.
For it is Thou Who give us everything that is good, and we give glory to Thee, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen.

AMVON PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY (SATURDAY)

O Lord our God, Thy love for us is beyond expression, for it pleased Thee to make Thy only-begotten Son a man born of a pure woman, like us in every way except sin. As man He was baptized for our sakes by John the Forerunner, though He had no need of purification, that He might make the nature of water holy and favor us with rebirth from water and from the Spirit.
Eternal Father, He was baptized, that we might recognize Thee, that we might adore and praise Thy beloved Son from heaven, and that we might glorify Thy Holy Spirit, who descended upon Him, and showed Him to the Baptist. In Him Thou sealed and anointed us through baptism; Thou made us sharers of Thy Christ. Through Him do not fail us sinners but strengthen us against all evil powers.
Strengthen Thy government against all tyranny and guide us all into Thy Kingdom.
In us may Thy holy Name, and that of Thy only-begotten Son and that of Thy Holy Spirit, be glorified, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
Amen.