

# ST. 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*Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Timothy Martin, Reader

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, Cantors Lawrence Martin, Parish Council President

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www.facebook.com/pg/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Church-of-Northside-Pittsburgh-169297619784149

#### UPCOMING SERVICES

#### PLEASE WEAR A MASK FOR ALL SERVICES

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#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022**

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday before the Baptism of our Lord Forefeast of the Theophany Prophet Malachias (400 B.C.) "Sanctity of Life Sunday"

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 # A DAY OF STRICT FASTING

9:30am Royal Hours on the North Side Vigil Service at:

St. John: 6 pm (211 Cable Ave., East Pittsburgh)

St. Michael: 6:30 pm (146 Third Ave., Rankin)

St. John: 7 pm (450 Glenwood Dr., Ambridge) St. Nicholas: 7 pm (903 Ann St., Homestead)

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD 9:30am Festal Divine Liturgy with the Great Blessing of Water

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#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

FEAST OF THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 9:30am Divine Liturgy

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#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Sunday after the Baptism of our Lord Afterfeast of the Theophany St. Gregory of Nyssa (395) 9:20 am Theophany Canon 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Tone 5; Liturgical Color: Gold +++

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

9:30am Parastas on International Holocaust Awareness Day

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**Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00** am.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

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**Future Services** are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at: www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar (*Please ask Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy*)

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#### **BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

**Seasonal Greeting** - The greeting used amongst Orthodox Christians for the period from the Nativity until Theophany is "Christ is born!" with the response "Glorify Him!".

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#### Holy Water Reminders: Do Not Hoard It!

While Holy Water does not "go bad", it is best to refresh your water each year. Holy Water from the previous year(s) should be poured outside (preferably on the corner of your house or in a garden where people are not going to walk on it). The best scenario is to use the water: take a drink every morning, use

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

#### Christ is Born!

(responded with: Glory Him!)
Christos Raždajetsja! (Slavite Jeho!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! 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 again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

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If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

**BULLETIN IS OFFERED:** 

in your cooking, etc. We will bless the new Jordan Water on Wednesday. All are encouraged to bring their Holy Water bottle the next time you come to church to refill with the New Jordan Water for your home

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Additional Church Curators Needed – A synonym for *curator* is *steward*. Our curator list needs expanded! If anyone is interested in being a *steward of their time* and be "on-the-door", please see Larry Martin or Theresa Sharpless.

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Greeting Cards — Please repurpose 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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Prayer requests – During the Great Entrance of the Divine Liturgy, prayers are said for the sick and those celebrating special occasions listed in the bulletin. If silent prayers are requested, they will be offered quietly at the altar at all services. All those listed in the "Prayer Corner" are prayed for during the Proskomedia (Preparation of the Bread and Wine for Communion). Prayer requests will remain for (about) 40 days unless requested otherwise. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our parish prayer list.

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**Bulletin Sponsor opportunities** – The sign-up sheet is in the vestibule to sponsor a bulletin in 2021. If you are not back in church yet, but would still like to sponsor, please notify Fr. Dave. If you wish to

sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (a short Memorial Service) for them.

Speaking With Your Priest - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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**Looking FURTHER Ahead...**Last week the following Sunday Lenten Schedule was accidentally omitted:

#### 2022 Sunday Schedule for the Great Fast

March 13 - Orthodoxy Sunday Vespers at All Saints (Canonsburg) at 4:30 pm

March 20 - Lenten Mission at St Michael's Rankin \*\* March 27 - Lenten Mission at St John's Northside \*\* April 2 - Lenten Retreat at St. Nicholas (Homestead) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

April 3 - Lenten Mission at St John's East Pgh. \*\*
April 10 - Lenten Mission at St John's Ambridge \*\*
\*\* Lenten Mission: Confessions starting at 3:30,
Vespers at 4:00, and Fellowship Meal following
Please, Save the Dates!

#### **OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD**

Friday, January 7

Stewardship Offerings: \$ 2030 Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship: \$ 90 \$ 2120 **Total Collections: Relocation Fund:** \$ 100 Sunday, January 9 Stewardship Offerings: \$ 143 Candles/Eternal Lamp Stewardship: \$ 144 **Total Collections:** \$ 287 **Relocation Fund:** \$ 100

#### In faith that God provides:

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Shuster; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson

**The Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Tim Martin in memory of Deceased Family Members. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin

(2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)

On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in). Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

General Stewardship Fund, Capital
Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.
If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

# ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

Saint Constantine School - HERE WE GO!!! It is inspiring to watch visions turn into reality. Pittsburgh is working hard to become one of the first branch campuses of The Saint Constantine School! The school's Central Office will be presenting an online webinar about the relationship between the Central Office and the branch campuses, and why this is a fiscally sound, financially responsible model for creating a classical Orthodox school in Pittsburgh. Email OrthoEdPGH@gmail.com for more information and for how you can get involved.

**IOCC Soup Tasting & Emergency Kit Project** – will be on February 5 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. More details will be coming. (Also, the Cigar and Bourbon Tasting has been postponed)

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Shopping on-line – The on-line shopping store, Amazon.com, will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our diocese! Simply go to the home page of our Diocesan website, www.acrod.org, and click on the AmazonSmiles button in the far left column and then shop as usual (Same products; same prices; same service). Would someone be willing to research how we can set this up for our parish?

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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 YouTube: youtube.com/acroddiocese

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#### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. <sup>6</sup> For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the

good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

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#### The Proclamation of John the Baptist

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

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight—"

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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LIVES OF THE SAINTS

#### ST. GENEVIEVE OF PARIS (502)

Commemorated on January 16/3

She was born near Paris to a family of wealthy landowners. When she was about ten years old St Germanus of Auxerre (July 31), passing through the region on his way to Britain, discerned a special divine purpose for her, and told her parents that she had been chosen for the salvation of many. "He asked her that day, and early the next, if she would consecrate herself to holy virginity for Christ and, on both occasions, she answered that it was her dearest wish. Then he blessed her and gave her a copper coin inscribed with the Cross to wear around her neck, telling her never to wear gold, silver or pearls, but to elevate her mind above the small beauties of this

world in order to inherit eternal and heavenly adornments." (Synaxarion)

Convents were unknown at that time in Gaul, so Genevieve lived as a solitary, in a cell in her own house, first with her parents then, after their death, with her godmother in Paris. She devoted herself to the poor, giving away everything that came into her hands, except the small amount that she needed to feed herself on bread and beans. (When she passed the age of fifty, she was commanded by the bishops to add some fish and milk to her diet). She kept Lent from Theophany to Pascha, during which time she never left her house. She was never afraid to rebuke the powerful for their oppression of the weak and the poor, and thus earned many powerful enemies; but the people's love for her, and the support of the Church, kept her from persecution.

It became her custom to walk to church on Sundays in procession with her household and many pious laypeople. Once the candle borne at the front of the procession (it was still dark) blew out in a rainstorm. The Saint asked for the candle and, when she took it in her hand, it re-lit and stayed lighted until they reached the church. At several other times, candles lit spontaneously in her hand; for this reason her icon shows her holding a candle.

She traveled throughout Gaul (modern-day France) on church business, being greeted with all the honors usually accorded a bishop. Several times she saved the city of Paris from the assaults of barbarian tribes through her prayers, by pleading with barbarian chieftains, and once by organizing a convoy to bring grain to the besieged city.

Saint Genevieve reposed in peace at the age of eighty. Through the centuries since then, she has shown her holy protection of the city of Paris countless times, and her relics in the Church of Saint Genevieve have wrought innumerable healings. Her relics were many times carried in huge processions in times of war, pestilence or other national trial. These relics were mostly burned and thrown into the River Seine by the godless Revolutionaries in 1793, but, as the Synaxarion concludes, "those who continue to invoke Saint Genevieve with faith, find her to be well and truly alive."

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#### FEAST DAY FEATURE

#### Amvon Prayer for the Feast of the Theophany

Commemorated on January 19 / 6

O Lord our God, Your love for us is beyond expression, for it pleased You to make Your 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 You, that we might adore and praise Your beloved Son from heaven, and that we might glorify Your Holy Spirit, who descended upon Him, and showed Him to the Baptist. In Him You sealed and anointed us through baptism; You made us sharers of Your Christ. Through Him do not fail us sinners but strengthen us against all evil powers. Strengthen Your government against all tyranny and guide us all into Your Kingdom.

In us may Your holy Name, and that of Your onlybegotten Son and that of Your Holy Spirit, be glorified, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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#### LIVING ORTHODOXY

2022 March for Life press release:

#### Orthodox Christians Will March for Life Together on East and West Coasts

Orthodox Christians for Life invites the Orthodox community to join the 2022 Orthodox gatherings at the March for Life on January 21 in Washington, DC, and the Walk for Life West Coast on January 22 in San Francisco, CA.

Orthodox Christians for Life (OCLife) first organized the Orthodox presence at the annual March 35 years ago in January of 1987, and Orthodox Christians have been gathering together at this event ever since.

"Gathering together at the annual March for Life is vital, not only because it allows the Church's leadership to demonstrate Orthodoxy's uncompromising commitment to the sanctity of human life, but also because it provides an important

occasion to bear witness to this commitment to the rest of the pro-life community – an evangelistic opportunity in itself," said Emily Wilkinson, OCLife Executive Director.

This year, a Divine Liturgy will be served at St. Nicholas Cathedral on the morning of the March for Life. Then Orthodox Christians will gather at a designated meeting spot on the National Mall to pray a Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, prior to the commencement of the March for Life.

On the West Coast, Orthodox Christians will gather for a service led by local clergy prior to the commencement of the Walk for Life.

Planning and promotional materials for the March for Life and Walk for Life gatherings, along with a full schedule of activities, can be found at <a href="https://ocite.org/walk">oclife.org/walk</a>. Participants can also sign up for text message updates to be alerted of any last-minute changes to the schedule or meeting place.

While the March for Life offers an annual opportunity for proclaiming the Church's pro-life beliefs, Orthodox Christians for Life is dedicated to helping the Orthodox community live out these beliefs during the whole year. Through its Parish Ministry Program, OCLife is actively equipping parishes to become faithful and loving advocates for the sanctity of life. For more information about OCLife or the Parish Ministry Program, see oclife.org or email info@oclife.org

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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(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Beverly, Melissa, Helen, Lauren,

Richard, Andrea, Paul, Kathleen, Alexandra, Kasamanda, Robert, Douglas, John, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin our diocesan seminarians: Nicholas, Dylan, Tom, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia. John, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Marv.

+++++++++Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

John Sharpless - St John the Baptist (1/20) (contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint)

Birthday Prayers for... Fred G. Anton (1/16), Paňi Fedornock (1/16), Father's Godson, Alex Schreiber (1/18), Father's Goddaughter, Jenna Schreiber (1/18), Kevynn Anton (1/19), Patricia Watson (1/19), Father's Nephew, Nicholas Ditmore (1/19), Fr Joseph Fester (1/19), Katherine Schrmack (1/22), Father's niece, Abiageal Verbanick (1/22) ...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!

For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Susan, Marilynn, John ...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magadalene, & St. John Maximovitch.

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

For Pregnant Mothers... Allison (due in May)
...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 and Trevor Meegan ...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.

For the souls of the newly departed... +Peter Papadakos (1/14), +Michael Slovesko, the priest (1/4), +Margaret Ferencz (12/21), +Michael Polanichka, the Priest (12/20), +Michael Macura, the Priest (12/18), +Igor Soroka, the Priest (12/18), +Joanne Mondin (12/15), +Elizabeth (12/12) ... May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.

\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you 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 only Orthodox Christians.

#### **DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

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#### A Prayer before consuming Antidoron and (or) Holy Water

O Lord my God, may Your holy gift and Your holy water be for the enlightenment of my mind, for the increase of my spiritual and bodily strengths, for the health of my soul and body, for the taming of my passions and weaknesses, through Your boundless mercy, through the prayers of Your Most-holy Mother and of all Your Saints, Amen.

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#### A prayer for our Neighborhoods

by Archbishop Demetrios of America I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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#### A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (name), and our spiritual father (name), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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#### ORTHODOX WORDS OF THE WEEK

**THEOPHANY** ("appearance of God") A manifestation of God in His uncreated glory. The revelation of the Holy Trinity at the Baptism of Christ (Luke 3:21-22) is the greatest theophany and is celebrated in the Orthodox Church on January 19/6. It

refers also to Christ's resurrection appearances. Other theophanies throughout the Bible include: God appeared to Abraham in the form of three men (Gen. 18:1-15) and to Jacob in a dream (Gen. 28:10-17).

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**EPIPHANY** Literally, "a breaking through from above." The word means a manifestation of God. Examples of epiphanies are the burning bush (Ex 3: 1-6) and the Transfiguration of Christ (Mt 17: 1-13).

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The Feast of Theophany is also sometimes referred to as Epiphany by English-speaking Orthodox Christians, but that name more properly refers to the Western Christian feast falling on that same day and commemorating the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus.

#### SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.

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**Online Community**: Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

<u>Parish Phone Tree</u> - Please call Fr. Dave to be added. <u>Emergency Sick Calls</u> — Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

<u>Mystery of Confession</u> – Opportunities are available <u>after every service</u>, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

<u>Holy Communion/Eucharist</u> – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive *a blessing* from the chalice.

<u>Lapsed Members</u> – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

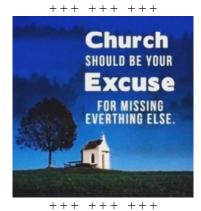
<u>Baptisms</u> – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the

other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

<u>Adult Chrismation</u> – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

<u>Marriages</u> – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (<u>before</u> arrangements are made for the hall).

<u>Church Funerals</u> – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. <u>The Church does not permit cremation</u>.



#### How to stay connected with the departed:

- ▶ Pray for them during the Divine Liturgy,
- Remember them in your daily prayers,
- Organize memorial services for their remembrance on their anniversary,
- Honor their memory by following their good deeds.
- ♣ Light a candle weekly for your departed loved ones.
- Give alms on their behalf, and
- ▼ Take care of their tombs [graves].

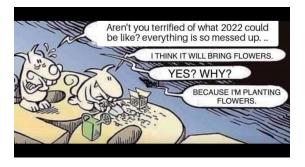
As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.

And you need the church. ☆ ♥ 人



#### Spiritual Vitamin:

"They whole year will be fortunate for you, if you do those things approved by God. For days come wicked and good, not from their own nature; for a day differs nothing from another day, but from our zeal and sluggishness. If you perform righteousness, then the day becomes good to you; if you perform sin, then it will be evil and full of retribution."

+St. John Chrysostom