ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX CHURCH

Visit us at: sthermanshillington.org Find us on
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Sunday, January 05, 2024 - FAST

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - TONE 3
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY
EVE OF THE THEOPHANY

Eve of Theophany, Jan 05, is observed as a strict fast. However, this year it falls on Sunday, therefore we don't keep strict fast as usual, but Wine & Oil are allowed.
No Sunday during the year is observed as a strict fast, since every Sunday we celebrate the Feastday of Christ's Resurrection.

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

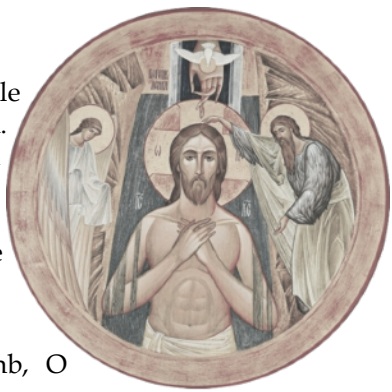
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom:

Troparion of resurrection, in tone 3:

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Troparion of the forefeast, in tone 4:

The River Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. The waters were parted in two, and the stream became a dry path. This was truly a type of baptism, by which we pass over the stream of life. Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.



Kontakion of resurrection, in tone 3:

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O

Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Glory, kontakion of the forefeast, in tone 2:

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, in order to take away the many transgressions of us all, clothing me in the garment of ancient glory of which I was cruelly stripped bare.

Now & ever, second kontakion of the forefeast, in tone 4:

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

Prokeimenon for the Sunday before Theophany, in tone 6:
O Lord, save Thy people, * and bless Thine inheritance!
v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4, 5-8 [π298] (*Sunday before Theophany*)

The Alleluia, in tone 8: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
v. O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Thy countenance upon us, and have mercy on us.
v. That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all the nations.

Gospel: Mark 1, 1-8 [π1] (*Sunday before Theophany*)

Communion hymn:
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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Birthdays / Wedding Anniversaries:
No birthdays, nor wedding anniversaries this week.

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PRAYERS:

- For health of: Archbishop Nathaniel Popp, Archbishop Alexander Golitzin, Matushka Myra Kovalak; Marcia Lutz; Bernard Kusior; Julia Jay

- MEMORY ETERNAL:
  - **Marie Yurkcuk: +Dec 26, 2024**
  - **Matushka Eugenia Nehrebecki: Apr 30, 1930 - Jan 02, 2025**

[*Please let Fr. Vjekoslav know if you would like to add anybody to the prayer list.*]

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Social Hour - following Liturgy

'THANK YOU!' to: **Peggy Hay & Traci Weinstein** for preparing food for the Social Hour following Liturgy.
On the schedule for next Sunday, **Jan 12**: **Elaine Dougherty & Karin Holm**.

Church Clean-up

'THANK YOU!' to: **Tina Gurnavage & Popadija Dragana** for cleaning the church this week.
On the scheduled for next week: **John Lorchak & Phyllis Kawood**.

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May God grant you many blessed years for your dedication and hard work!

Church Attendance

- **Sat, Dec 21, G. Vespers - 6 adults**
- **Sun, Dec 22, D. Liturgy - 27 adults, 3 children**

Received Communion - 18 adults, 3 children

Last Sunday Collection:

- **Sun, Dec 29, D. Liturgy - $ 2,453.00**
- **Total Income for Dec 24 - $ 11,294.00** (*This includes money from Script and flower donations*)

Liturgical Calendar:

Sun, Jan 05 - EVE OF THEOPHANY this year falls on Sunday, therefore we don't keep strict fast as usual, but Wine & Oil are allowed.

No Sunday during the year is observed as a strict fast, since every Sunday we celebrate the Feastday of Christ's Resurrection.

- **Sun, Jan 05, 04:30pm - Great Vespers**
- **Mon, Jan 06, 09:00am - D. Liturgy - The Holy Theophany of Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ - followed by the Great Blessing of Water at Wyomissing Creek**
- **Tue, Jan 07, 09:30am - D. Liturgy - Old Calendar Christmas** - with the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Mark, Liturgy for Old Calendar Christmas will be celebrated **at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA**. Liturgy will be celebrated mostly in Church-Slavonic language. Please join us! The address is: **980 Bridle Path Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017**

- **Sat, Jan 11, 04:30pm - Great Vespers**
- **Sun, Jan 12, 09:00am - D. Liturgy**

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Blessing of Homes for Theophany

There are few things more vital to our lives than our homes. In our homes we pray, we work, we talk to others, we order our lives, we work out our marriages, etc. What more important place to reclaim for the Kingdom of God – or is it better to continue living in a place which is occupied by the enemy. For the most effective working out of our salvation, we must drive the enemy out of our homes, and keep him at bay by our prayers, our righteous life, and the annual sprinkling by Holy Water at Theophany.

It is tradition to invite your priest to bless your home with holy water following Theophany. Fr. Vjekoslav will do Blessing of Homes during Theophany season. He is available any time, any day from January 8th on. If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact Father either by phone or email in order to schedule the visit. Fell free to text or leave a voice mail and Father will get back to you as soon as possible.

The items needed for a house blessing are:

1. **Candle** (*Real wax candle, that has a wick and is able to burn, not electric*)
2. **Large serving bowl** for the Holy Water
3. **Holy Water** (*Blessed in the Orthodox Church*)

[*Optional:* Small Censer, Charcoal, Incense]

"The Orthodox Church teaches us that a temple is not only a building in which we worship, but that we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3, 16); that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that we are the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12, 27). And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels in the altar, so should every Christian's life be full of reverence and sanctity not only during a church service, but likewise outside the walls of the temple. A Christian's home must become a small temple, a small Church.

The Church blesses the very foundation of a home in the same way that it blesses the foundation of a church; it blesses a new Christian home in the same way that it blesses a new temple; and yearly, after the blessing of a parish temple with the water of Theophany, the Church brings this holy water into the homes of the faithful. The prayers for the blessing of a temple are different from those for the blessing of a home, because the function of a home is different from that of a temple, but the sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit is one. And just as in the baptism of our Lord all of creation is washed clean and sanctified, every year after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 6), Christians sanctify themselves and their homes with the Water of Theophany."

By Fr. Sergei Sveshnikov

A WARM WELCOME to all visitors and guests who have participated in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy this morning. We invite you all to our parish hall for fellowship following the veneration of the Holy Cross. Please, find the schedule of services and Fr. Vjekoslav's contact info in the bulletin. We hope to see you again!

PLEASE NOTE: **Holy Communion is given only to those Orthodox Christians that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and a recent confession, and have attended the Holy Liturgy from the beginning, and are in peace with each other. Partakers of the Communion must keep strict fasting on the morning before Liturgy, that is not to consume any food or drink until after Eucharist.**