



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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**EVE OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST (JANUARY 5, 2025) /  
FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST (JANUARY 6, 2025)**

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

### **TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON**

#### **Troparion – 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 – 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 – 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.

#### **Kontakion – 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.

#### **Kontakion – 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 – 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!

### **LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION**

#### **Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**

The fourth day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 5. If January 5th falls on a weekday, the following order is observed: Vespers on the evening of the 4th, then Matins. The First Hour is not read after Matins. On the 5th we read the Royal Hours, followed by Vespers and the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on Saturday: The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vespers on the evening of the 4th, followed by Matins. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Saturday morning.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on a Sunday: The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vigil is served on Saturday evening, and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Sunday.

There are thirteen readings at Vespers on the Eve of Theophany, and the entrance is made with the Gospel. There is fasting today, whatever day of the week it may be.

### **Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ**

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.

### **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

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

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

## **Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

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.'" John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED**

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

### **For the Sick / Caregiver**

Anna (12/15)	Adrian (12/22)
Michael (12/15)	Paula (12/22)
Carmine (12/15)	Valentin (12/22)
Marianne (12/15)	Alexandru (12/22)
Subdeacon Serge (12/22)	Anamaria (12/22)
Melody (12/22)	Liam (12/29)
Michael (12/22)	Kelly (12/29)
Charlotte (12/22)	Alexandra (12/29)
Mihai (12/22)	Father Paul (12/29)
Virgiliu (12/22)	Matushka Mary (12/29)
Thomas (12/22)	Margo (1/5)
Emilia (12/22)	

### **For the Deceased**

Saverio (12/22)
Maria (12/22)
Ioan (12/22)
Matushka Maria (12/22)
Paulina (12/22)
Ioan (12/22)
Mia (12/22)
Carolina (12/22)
Michael (1/5)
Matushka Eugenia (1/5)

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the Week of January 5**

**Sunday January 5 – EVE OF FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall; 5:00 PM Great Compline with Litya

**Monday January 6 – FEAST OF THEOPHANY** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of Water

**Tuesday January 7 – SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Saturday January 11** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 12** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

December 29 – 80 adults, 21 youth, \$3,672

## **ORTHODOXY 101**

### **Church Etiquette**

When to kneel?

In the Orthodox Church, kneeling and/or prostrating is an expression of bodily prayer and penance that is appropriate at certain times. However, there are some times when kneeling is not permitted:

- \* **Sundays** – Kneeling is not permitted on Sundays so as to honor the joy of the Resurrection.
- \* **Paschal Season** – Kneeling is not permitted from Pascha to Pentecost because this is a season of joy.
- \* **Gospel, Epistle, Old Testament Readings, Six Psalms, and Sermon:** Out of reverence, kneeling is not permitted when these are being read.

Prostrating is permitted during the Consecration of the Holy Gifts on Sundays to recognize the sacredness of the descent of the Holy Spirit. Remember, when Jesus was transfigured on Mount Sinai – the apostles present were prostrated before the Glory of our Lord. (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:28-36)

Kneeling is permitted during weekday services except from Pascha until Pentecost.

Laymen are also permitted to pray on their knees and make prostrations at other times unless the Gospel, Epistle, Old Testament Readings, Six Psalms, or Sermon are being read.

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please bring your bottle/jar to services tomorrow for blessed water to take home with you.

There is a sign-up sheet on the credenza in the back of the church for house blessings. Please sign up if you would like your house blessed, and Father Volodymyr will contact you to schedule a time.

The Ladies Assumption Altar Society will be raffling off a handmade winter wreath and table runner today and next Sunday. The wreath is perfect for a door or wall, and the matching table runner highlights a lovely table winterscape. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. The winner will be announced on Sunday January 12.

The FOCA Club is having a Game Night for adults and young adults in Daria Hall on Saturday January 11 after Vespers. Bring your favorite game, snacks, and beverages for a night of fellowship and fun!

Mark your calendars for the Annual Parish Meeting, which will be held after services on Sunday January 26. It is important to attend this meeting for updates on the status of the parish.

The FOCA Club will have a chili cook-off prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on January 26. Samples of each chili will be for sale, and then we will vote on our favorite spicy and non-spicy chilis! The winners (spicy and non-spicy) will receive a \$25 gift card.

Pierogies are for sale! Please see a member of the FOCA Club during Coffee Hour to purchase.

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Awet Tesfa – January 5

Nebiat Tesfa – January 6

Walter Tribbey – January 6

Phyllis Eck – January 9

Noah Meyer – January 9

Natalia Kolomatskaia – January 11

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## **COFFEE HOUR**

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

### **SUGGESTED MENU:**

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

*If your menu includes a pork dish, please keep in mind that several of our parishioners do not eat pork, so please provide an alternative for them.*

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco
- Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett
- Jan. 19 Juan Garcia, Benjamin & Julie Stell
- Jan. 26 **Annual Parish Meeting, FOCA Chili Cook-Off**
- Feb. 2 Anna, Leon, & Simeon Brasowski, Brittani & Alex Brasowski
- Feb. 9 Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Stefania Balasa
- Feb. 16 Karina Kotelnicki, Paul & Patty Denko
- Feb. 23 Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Manny & Lourdes Montiel
- Mar. 2 Tony & Chris Villabon, Cole Johnson
- Mar. 9 **FAST** John Cassar, Christina DiDonato
- Mar. 16 **FAST** Viktoryia Baranava, Tamara Karkusova
- Mar. 23 **FAST** Chris Kasmer, Nina Laushell
- Mar. 30 **FAST** Herman & Francine Meyer, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt
- Apr. 6 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla Strauss
- Apr. 13 **FAST** Lynne Sheedy & Bill Hazelton, Melody Stavisky
- Apr. 20 **PASCHA – No Coffee Hour**
- Apr. 27 Alan & Mimi Berck, Isaiah Maldonado

*Have a healthy, blessed week!*