



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST / MARTYR TATIANA OF ROME, AND THOSE WHO SUFFERED WITH HER JANUARY 12, 2025

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **Troparion – Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,// granting the world great mercy!”

##### **Troparion – Tone 1**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself// and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

##### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

In thy sufferings thou didst shine brightly in the royal purple of thy blood, and like a beautiful dove thou didst fly to heaven, passion-bearer Tatiana.// Therefore, always pray for those who honor thee!

##### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself,// O unapproachable Light.”

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!  
V. *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!*

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

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

The sixth day of the Afterfeast of Theophany falls on January 12. Divine grace shines forth so that we might be freed from the power of the devil, and cleansed of our sins in Baptism. “He who once assumed the appearance of a malignant serpent and implanted death in the creation, is now cast into darkness by Christ’s coming in the flesh....” (Ode 3, second Canon at Matins). “Through the Spirit and by the grace that comes through water, He grants a new birth to all who acknowledge His divinity, delivering them from their faults” (Ode 6, first Canon at Matins).

##### **Martyr Tatiana of Rome, and those who suffered with her**

The Holy Virgin Martyr Tatiana was born into an illustrious Roman family, and her father was elected consul three times. He was secretly a Christian and raised his daughter to be devoted to God and the Church. When she reached the age of

maturity, Tatiana decided to remain a virgin, betrothing herself to Christ. Disdaining earthly riches, she sought instead the imperishable wealth of Heaven. She was made a deaconess in one of the Roman churches and served God in fasting and prayer, tending the sick and helping the needy.

When Rome was ruled by the sixteen-year-old Alexander Severus (222-235), all power was concentrated in the hands of the regent Ulpius, an evil enemy and persecutor of Christians. Christian blood flowed like water. Tatiana was also arrested, and they brought her into the temple of Apollo to force her to offer sacrifice to the idol. The saint began praying, and suddenly there was an earthquake. The idol was smashed into pieces, and part of the temple collapsed and fell down on the pagan priests and many pagans. The demon inhabiting the idol fled screeching from that place. Those present saw its shadow flying through the air.

Then they tore holy virgin's eyes out with hooks, but she bravely endured everything, praying for her tormentors that the Lord would open their spiritual eyes. And the Lord heard the prayer of His servant. The executioners saw four angels encircle the saint and beat her tormentors. A voice was heard from the heavens speaking to the holy virgin. Eight men believed in Christ and fell on their knees before Saint Tatiana, begging them to forgive them their sin against her. For confessing themselves Christians they were tortured and executed, receiving Baptism by blood.

The next day Saint Tatiana was brought before the wicked judge. Seeing her completely healed of all her wounds, they stripped her and beat her, and slashed her body with razors. A wondrous fragrance then filled the air. Then she was stretched out on the ground and beaten for so long that the servants had to be replaced several times. The torturers became exhausted and said that an invisible power was beating them with iron rods. Indeed, the angels warded off the blows directed at her and turned them upon the tormentors, causing nine of them to fall dead. They then threw the saint in prison, where she prayed all night and sang praises to the Lord with the angels.

A new morning began, and they took Saint Tatiana to the tribunal once more. The torturers beheld with astonishment that after such terrible torments she appeared completely healthy and even more radiant and beautiful than before. They began to urge her to offer sacrifice to the goddess Diana. The saint seemed agreeable, and they took her to the heathen temple. Saint Tatiana made the Sign of the Cross and began to pray. Suddenly, there was a crash of deafening thunder, and lightning struck the idol, the sacrificial offerings and the pagan priests.

Once again, the martyr was fiercely tortured. She was hung up and scraped with iron claws, and her breasts were cut off. That night, angels appeared to her in prison and healed her wounds as before. On the following day, they took Saint Tatiana to the circus and loosed a hungry lion on her. The beast did not harm the saint, but meekly licked her feet. As they were taking the lion back to its cage, it killed one of the torturers. They threw Tatiana into a fire, but the fire did not harm the martyr. The pagans, thinking that she was a sorceress, cut her hair to take away her magical powers, then locked her up in the temple of Zeus. On the third day, pagan priests came to the temple intending to offer sacrifice to Zeus. They beheld the idol on the floor, shattered to pieces, and the holy martyr Tatiana joyously praising the Lord Jesus Christ. The judge then condemned the valiant sufferer to be beheaded with a sword. Her father was also executed with her, because he had raised her to love Christ.

#### **The Relics of Saint Tatiana in Craiova**

The honorable head of the Holy Martyr Tatiana was first brought to Romania in 1204, when members of the ruling family (Asanestan dynasty) placed it in a church in Tarnovo (Bulgaria) and then in Bucovat Monastery (near Craiova). Later, however, in 1393, the head of the Saint was taken to a church in the town of Nicaea (where the First Ecumenical Synod met), and then to Constantinople, and placed in the Church of the Holy Apostles.

In 1453, after the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks, during the reign of Neagoe Basarab, the Craiovești boyars brought the head of the holy Martyr Tatiana to this country, as well as the entire body of Saint Gregory the Decapolite (November 20), which they placed in the church of Bistrița Monastery. From that monastery, the relics of Saint Tatiana were taken by Saint Neagoe Basarab (September 15) and brought to the royal church at Curtea de Argeș. Later, with the reorganization of the Metropolitan Church of Oltenia (1950-1955), the honorable skull of Saint Tatiana was taken from Curtea de Argeș and brought to the Episcopal Cathedral of Râmnicu Vâlcea in 1955. Finally, the honored relics were permanently enshrined in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Craiova.

Today, the holy relics of Saint Tatiana are kept, with great honor, in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Holy Great Martyr Demetrios in Craiova, in the same reliquary with the relics of Saint Niphon of Constantinople (August 11), and the [Holy Martyrs Sergius and Bacchus](#) (October 7).

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## **PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED** (To add a name, please email [daricekeyes@gmail.com](mailto:daricekeyes@gmail.com))

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

Subdeacon Serge (12/22)  
Melody (12/22)  
Michael (12/22)  
Charlotte (12/22)  
Mihai (12/22)  
Virgiliu (12/22)  
Thomas (12/22)  
Emilia (12/22)  
Adrian (12/22)  
Paula (12/22)  
Valentin (12/22)

Alexandru (12/22)  
Anamaria (12/22)  
Liam (12/29)  
Kelly (12/29)  
Alexandra (12/29)  
Father Paul (12/29)  
Matushka Mary (12/29)  
Margo (1/5)  
Anthony (1/12)  
Carmine (1/12)  
Marianne (1/12)

### **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 12**

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

**Saturday January 18** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 19** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

January 5 – 97 adults, 18 youth, \$7,322

## **ORTHODOXY 101**

### **Frequency of Holy Communion**

**Question:** I would like to know when I may receive Holy Communion besides receiving it on Sundays during Divine Liturgy. **How many times a year should one receive Holy Communion?**

**Answer:**

Provided that an Orthodox Christian has properly prepared himself/herself through prayer, fasting, repentance, and reflection on his/her life, he/she may receive Holy Communion whenever a Divine Liturgy is celebrated. Of course, one should always discuss this with his/her Spiritual Father (typically your parish priest), especially in terms of how the Sacrament of Confession is of benefit in proper Eucharistic preparation.

The Orthodox prayers in preparation for Holy Communion (found in the Liturgy prayer books) are of great assistance in preparing one's mind and heart for participation in the awesome mystery of our Lord's Eucharistic Meal. We approach the chalice with "fear and trembling" for the "healing of soul and body", and petition God that that it is not for "judgement or condemnation". Our preparation does not make us worthy. It makes us mindful that it is only by God's grace that we can receive His mystical body and blood – the source of eternal life!

Generally, the minimal fast leading up to communion is from 12:00 AM the night before. Speak with Father if you have health considerations or the need for medication that requires a breaking of the fast.

There is no "set" number of times one should receive Holy Communion during the year. Of course, the absolute minimum is once each year, particularly during the season of Great Lent.  
(Some of this information was copied from the Orthodox Church in America website)

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 PM in the church basement.

There will be a FOCA meeting today during Coffee Hour.

There will be a Ladies Assumption Altar Society meeting next Sunday, January 19 during Coffee Hour. All members please attend – there is a lot to discuss.

January is designated by the OCA to be "Sanctity of Life" month, with January 19th being "Sanctity of Life" Sunday. There will be a presentation by Julie Stell next Sunday, January 19 during Coffee Hour regarding crisis pregnancy and the "Legacy of Life Foundation", which is a non-profit organization that helps women choose life for their babies. Please plan on listening to this presentation to learn about this Christian organization and how they help to save lives. A donation box will be set up by the stage in Daria Hall to accept donations of diapers (not the Luvs brand) size 5 and up, baby wipes, and new clothes size 2T and up. Free will offerings will also be accepted after the presentation – checks should be made payable to "Legacy of Life Foundation".

Please remember to bring a bottle or jar for holy water.

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. 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 during Coffee Hour.

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 six different chilis 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**

Sebastian Godun – January 13

Tahara Ortiz – January 13

Tatiana Bagritsevich - January 13

Cezar Mateiescu – January 15

Stephanie Hopkins – January 17

Nicholas Cassar – January 18

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. 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 **NO MEAT FAST** 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!*