

HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



January 5, 2025

Sunday before Theophany

*The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus, bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas;
Our Venerable Mother Syncletica of Alexandria;
The Holy Prophet Micah*

January 5, 2025

Schedule of services for the week of January 6 – January 12

Monday, January 6 - *Holy Theophany of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ (day of precept)*

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

Tuesday, January 7 - *The Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptizer John*

9:00 AM – Funeral Divine Liturgy; + Kristin Rankin; (niece of Fr. Robert Rankin)

Saturday, January 11 – *Saturday after Theophany; Our Venerable Father Theodosius the Coenobiarch*

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

4:00 PM – Confessions

5:00 PM – Great Vespers

Sunday, January 12 – *Sunday after Theophany; The Holy Martyr Tatiana, deaconess*

8:40 AM – 3rd Hour

9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

For all parishioners

“He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.” Answering God’s call for your life is the way for us to genuinely respond to our baptism. Are you thinking about whether you may be called to ordination, consecrated or monastic life? Contact the Vocations Office at 602-861-9778 or email:

vocations@ephx.org

O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Fr. Deacon Craig Anderson, Janice Andre, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Noah Chase, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Jacob, Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasmak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Michael Raya Jr. Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.

There is a current listing of registered parishioners available in the Narthex and the Church Hall. Please check your family entry in the directory and make any updates to your information.

Please mark your entry with a ✓ if there are no changes. There is also a selection regarding envelopes. Please mark Yes or No. If you are not listed, please see Fr. James for a parish registration form.



BROHA Pancake Breakfast

Mark your Calendars: Next Sunday, January 12, we will have a Pancake Breakfast provided by our men’s group.

God With Us ONLINE Programs

Hundreds of hours of **free** live and pre-recorded webinars, series, conferences and lectures for inquirers, the faithful, and catechists in video and audio format. This year we will also be working with the BECOMING BYZANTINE Catechist Podcast Team!

For more information visit:

godwithusonline.org/online/

Holy Water bottles are available for sale in the Narthex for water from the Great Water Blessing on the feast of Theophany.

Prayer for the Unknown

Lord, You steadied the hand of Peter as he began to sink on the stormy sea. If you are with me, no one can overcome me. Grant the shield of faith and the mighty armor of the Holy Spirit to protect me. Guide me to do Your will. I will follow You as I place my future into Your hands, O Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“The Christmas message is not that peace will come automatically, because Christ is born in Bethlehem; that birth in Bethlehem was the prelude to His birth in our hearts by grace and faith and love. Peace belongs only to those who will to have it. If there is no peace in the world today, it is not because Christ did not come; it is because we did not let Him in.”

– Venerable Fulton Sheen
Simple Truths

Spend time with your parents, treat them well. Because one day, when you look up from your phone they won't be there anymore.

THE PRIVILEGED PLACE FOR READING AND LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD IS THE LITURGY, IN WHICH, CELEBRATING THE WORD AND MAKING CHRIST'S BODY PRESENT IN THE SACRAMENT WE ACTUALIZE THE WORD IN OUR LIVES AND MAKE IT PRESENT AMONG US.

– POPE BENEDICT XVI



“There are several ways to avoid loving God: Deny that you are a sinner. Pretend that religion is for the ignorant and the superstitious, but not for the learned such as yourself. Insist that the sole purpose of religion is social service. Judge religion by whether or not it is accepted by the important people of the world. Avoid all contemplation, self-examination, and inquiry into the moral state of your soul.”

– Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
(God Love You)



A PRAYER BEFORE A JOURNEY



O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the true and living way, be Thou, O Master, my companion, guide and guardian during my journey; deliver and protect me from all danger, misfortune and temptation; that being so defended by Thy divine power, I may have a peaceful and successful journey and arrive safely at my destination. For in Thee I put my trust and hope, and to Thee, together with Thine Eternal Father, and the All-holy Spirit, I ascribe all praise, honor and glory: now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

January 6 - The Holy Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The Cross stands while the world turns - Fr. John Behr

Today Christ descends into the waters of Jordan, and this is the culmination of the cycle of feast days that we have been celebrating over the past days, the heart of our Winter Pascha.

The one who was born of an unwedded virgin is revealed to be the Son of God, with the Spirit of God resting upon him and the Father himself proclaiming his sonship to all.

The one who was concealed in the depth of the earth in a cave begins his public ministry, openly proclaiming the gospel to all.

And the one who appeared as a weak infant is revealed to be the Lord of creation.

By descending into the Jordan, Christ has made known the true knowledge of God – as Father, revealed by his Son and known in the Spirit – the Trinity whom we worship.

By descending into the Jordan, Christ has brought illumination to the world, so that we may all live in the light of His gospel.

By descending into the Jordan, Christ has transfigured the waters and all creation, so that we also may be transformed, reborn in the same waters to live in his Kingdom.

These three themes – manifestation, illumination, and transformation – are the heart of this feast of *Theophany*: the revelation of God or *Epiphany*, the appearance of Christ desired by all those who have faith in him.

We have sung repeatedly, and will continue to do so, of how the worship of the Trinity was made manifest in this event.

We have also sung of how Christ has appeared and enlightened the world, as “Light from light, Christ our God has shone upon the world, God made manifest,”

bringing light to all things by his epiphany, so that those who sit in darkness can leap for joy, now that the great light has appeared to them.

And finally, we have sung about how Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters, so that the earth is sanctified, the waters blessed, and the heavens enlightened.

The waters, the basic element upon which the earth rests, have become the lair of dragons and demons.

The waters, created by God to sustain life, continually threaten to wash away life, and tragically still do so.

The waters, out of which our bodies are mostly composed, are the element in which we cannot live.

Yet these same waters, by the action of Christ, become once again, as we will say in the blessing of the waters, a fountain of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, the destruction of demons.

All this Christ does by descending into the Jordan. One of the Trinity bowed his head, in humility and condescension, and received baptism from the hands of a man. The amazement that this should evoke in us is placed into the mouth of John the Baptist by the hymnography:

How shall the lamp illuminate the light? How shall the servant set his hand upon the master? O Savior who takes away the sin of the world, sanctify both me and the waters!”

As a human being, Christ approaches the Baptist, and, in this act of condescension, is revealed to be God, recreating creation by the transforming power of his divinity.

Christ does this as a human being so that it is possible for us to enter into this mystery: he doesn't trample on creation by a humanly-conceived “divine omnipotence”; rather, he manifests his divinity through his self-emptying, so that we might follow him

on this path of humility and be baptized in him. We are carried by him as he descends into the Jordan, so that the grace of the Jordan is extended to each of us through our baptism in him.

Let us never forget that as Christ descends, vertically, into the Jordan another axis or movement is inscribed in the feast, as we see so clearly in the icon before us. That is the horizontal movement, from this world, symbolized by the Baptist, to the next, the angelic host waiting to attend to Christ as he emerges from the waters.

The vertical descent and the horizontal transition impress on our eyes and minds the ever present reality of the Cross, with Christ as the perfectly still center.

If the waters, and the whole creation, have been sanctified through the baptism of Christ, it is *not* simply as the addition of a religious veneer to the world as we presently experience it, validating the world as it is. Christ's baptism enables us instead to pass *through this* world, as Israel passed through the Red Sea without being submerged, or as Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha passed through the Jordan without getting wet.

By his own passage through the Jordan, Christ sanctifies creation so that the whole world is now for us the river Jordan, as we pass through our lives desiring the appearance of Christ,

If the world has been recreated, we need

to enter into this renewed creation, and we do so by following Christ, through our own baptism, which is always a baptism into his death and resurrection, requiring our own death to this world, so that we might live with him.

If we drink the blessed waters, we should always have in our minds the cup of his own blood that Christ offers to those who follow him, and that we will soon receive.

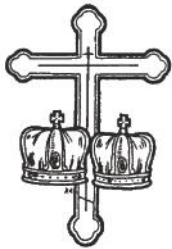
We heard from Paul today that the grace of God which brings salvation has indeed appeared, and that it teaches us to abandon ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live instead in this present world with soberness and righteousness, in godly lives, all the time looking for the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, redeeming us from all iniquity, purifying us to be his own particular people, a people zealous for good works, giving us the washing of regeneration, and renewing us in the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray that we have the strength to pass baptismally through the waters of this world, our own river Jordan, that we may also appear like Christ when he appears (1 John 3:2).

This is the mark of Christianity – however much a man toils, and however many righteous deeds he performs, to feel that he has done nothing... and so say, “I am only just beginning to struggle for the Lord and to practice His ways.” And even if he is righteous before God, he should say, “I am not righteous, not I; I do not struggle enough, and each day I only make a beginning in the Christian life.” ”

– St. Macarius the Great

A PRAYER FOR MARRIED PEOPLE



O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who has taught us to pray without ceasing for each other, so that thereby we might be made worthy of Your mercy: look down with compassion on our married life and keep us from all perilous falls and from enemies both visible and invisible. Grant that we may pass the remainder of our days in oneness of mind and purity of heart. Grant us health, strength, and Your divine wisdom, so that we may be able to fulfill our duties all the days of our lives according to Your holy will and commandments. Protect and keep us from harm and enable us by Your grace to bear and conquer those temptations that come upon us. Strengthen us in true faith, unfailing hope, and perfect love, so that together we may order our entire life according to Your divine ordinances and commandments and thereby be found pleasing in Your sight.

O Greatly Merciful Lord, hear us who humbly pray to You, and send Your divine blessing on our married life and on all our good deeds, for Yours it is to hear and have mercy on us, O our God, and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ONE'S ENEMIES



O Lord Jesus Christ, Who commanded us to love our enemies, praying for and forgiving those who persecute or wrong us; Who Yourself gave us the perfect example by praying for those who crucified You: grant us, we ask You, the spirit of Christian reconciliation and meekness, that we may completely forgive every injury and be reconciled with our enemies. Grant us to overcome all wickedness and offenses through Christian love and the ever abiding awareness that we are all sinners. We further beseech You, O Lord, to grant to our enemies the same peace and forgiveness of sins which we ask for ourselves; and do not allow them or us to leave this life without heartfelt reconciliation. And help us all by Thy grace to repay evil with goodness, so that thereby we might all be found worthy of Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.

A PRAYER OF PARENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

O Lord, God of heaven and earth, Who in Your wisdom has created man from the dust of the earth, breathing into his face the breath of life and blessing him saying: "Increase and multiply, fill the earth and rule over it;" and Who in Cana of Galilee through Thine Only Son, Jesus Christ, blessed the union of marriage and thereby the bearing of sons and daughters – with deep humility we pray to You: help us by Your grace to fulfill our duties as parents according to Your holy will so that our children may grow to full maturity of soul and body according to the full stature of Your Christ.



·MARRIAGE·

O Greatly Merciful Lord, Who gives food to the birds of the sky and to all living things on the earth, Who watches over the flower that sprouts amidst the rocky cliffs; nourish, bring up, and protect our children also. Help us, O Lord, to plant in their souls what is good and useful for the Holy Church and our nation, and Yourself inspire our children with what is well pleasing to You, that Your holy name may be exalted through them. Fill them, O Lord, with the enlightened wisdom and holy understanding which come down from You. Protect them from all the snares of enemies both visible and invisible. Command Your angels to be their guides and counselors in all good works.

We pray You, O Lord, God of mercies, have mercy on us and on our home, and in Your great goodness, pour out Your abundant grace over all our children that together with us they may forever worship and glorify You, the only True God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A PRAYER OF CHILDREN FOR THEIR PARENTS

O Holy Lord, King of heaven and earth, look down from heaven with mercy and compassion upon our home. Grant health and everything good to my father and mother, so that they may take care of us and everyone in our household. And help us all to do what is good and pleasing to You. Amen.



“For the great and powerful of this world, there are only two places in which their courage fails them, of which they are afraid deep down in their souls, from which they shy away. These are the manger and the cross of Jesus Christ. No powerful person dares to approach the manger, and this even includes King Herod. For this is where thrones shake, the mighty fall, the prominent perish, because God is with the lowly. Here the rich come to nothing, because God is with the poor and hungry, but the rich and satisfied he sends away empty. Before Mary, the maid before the manger of Christ, before God in lowliness, the powerful come to naught; they have not right, no hope; they are judged.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Meditation: Year of the Lord, Volume 2

During the Christmas season God's love and His message of new hope comes to us through the beauty and peace of the incarnate Christ. Yet the Good News of God's love may be entirely missed, and Christmas may be an unfulfilled dream, amidst the hectic bustle of cleaning, shopping, writing, calling, decorating, banking and visiting. The basic reason for an unfulfilled Christmas is that we focus on ourselves, how to please each other, how to feel good and how to secure happiness with all the things we regard necessary. Yet only Christ can give us a true Christmas. Only His presence in our hearts can bring happiness, peace, joy, warmth and security. Cling to Christ ever more closely during the Christmas season. Take time to pray and to establish your spiritual and practical priorities. Let Christ come with you from home to school, from kitchen to shopping center, from Church to business office.



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The Synaxis Of The Baptist

Commemorated January 7th

St. John's greatest role during his life was enacted on the day of Theophany, and because of this the Church has, from the earliest times, dedicated the day following that feast to his memory. This day is also connected with an event involving the hand of the Forerunner. The Evangelist Luke desired to take John's body from Sebaste, where the great prophet had been beheaded by Herod, to Antioch, his own birthplace. He succeeded, though, in acquiring and taking only one hand, which was kept in Antioch till the tenth century. It was then moved to Constantinople, whence it disappeared during the Turkish occupation.



St. John is commemorated several times during the year, but his greatest observance is on this day, January 7th. Among the Gospel figures surrounding the Savior, the person of John the Baptist holds a very special place, by the manner of his birth in this world and his earthly life, by his role of baptizer of men to repentance and his baptism of the Messiah, and, lastly, by the tragic manner of his departure from this world. He was of such moral purity that he indeed deserved the name "angel", as he was named in the Scriptures, rather than being thought of as just a mortal man. St. John differs from all other prophets in that he had the joy of showing forth to the world the One Whom he had foretold.

From the *Prologue of Ochrid* by St. Nicholas of Zicha

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Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Bob Greenwell, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$12220.00; Youth Offering: \$3635.00; Loose Change: \$474.00; Renovation Fund: \$100.00;
Retired Religious Fund: \$5.00; Non-Parishioner: \$30.00; Church Usage: \$400.00; **Total: \$16,864.00**

Online Giving: October: \$4450.00; November: \$1870.00; December: \$3,685.00

Vocation Icon: This week: Chase Family
Next week: Washicko Family

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX

SUBSCRIBES TO THE
*Charter for the Protection of
Children and Young People*

adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.

For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:

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- or -

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