



Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Sun, January 5, 2019 - Eve of Holy Theophany

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4

Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas (303)



Hymns for Today

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!"

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.

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!

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. Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize me, // for I come to save Adam, the first-formed man!"

Epistle Reading - 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 Reading - 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."

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TODAY: 9:00 AM - 3rd & 6th Hours (8:40AM), Divine Liturgy, Holy Theophany Compline, Holy Supper

MON: Jan 6, 9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy for The Feast of Holy Theophany

TUES: Jan 7, 6:00 PM - Russian Christmas Party @ The Russian Club (Bring a dish)

WED: Jan 8th, 6:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

SAT: Jan 11, 4:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUN: Jan 12, 9:00 AM - 3rd & 6th Hours (8:40AM), Divine Liturgy, Adult Ed - Intro to Divine Liturgy, Church School, Parish Council

PLEASE NOTE:

Holy Theophany Compline & Holy Supper

will be held directly after Divine Liturgy TODAY
Please stay and enjoy Holy Supper!

Attendance & Donations - 12/29/19

Attendance: 78 | Regular: \$1426
Improvements: \$342 | Candles: \$210

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Josie Bisset, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nancy Valletta & Family, Nadine Breisch, Luke Austin, Susan Goobic Howell, Rosalie Bagenski, Paul Loftus, Rachael Macking

Departed: Gary, Katherine, Amelia, Kandi

RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

January 7 at 6 PM at the Russian Club
Bring your favorite dish to share.

+++ HOUSE BLESSING SCHEDULE +++

Monday Jan. 6th: Miners Mill & Parsons (12:30 PM - 7 PM)

Tuesday Jan 7th: Hudson, Plains, Hilldale, Port Griffith, Blanchard, Laflin, Westminister, Keystone, Pittston (10 AM - 5 PM)

Thursday Jan 9th: Bald Mountain, Mountaintop, Nanticoke Area (11 AM - 4 PM)

Friday Jan 10th: Wilkes Barre City & Township, Kingston & Westside, and homes missed earlier (11 AM - 4 PM)

Saturday, January 11th: Back Mountain (Morning)

If you live in an outlying area OR need to schedule a particular time of day due to your work schedule please let me know. I hope everyone will participate and receive the blessing of having your home blessed. If you are not available for home blessing there is a signup sheet in the vestibule. - Fr. Innocent

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE - THANK YOU AND THE NEXT PROJECT

- A big thanks to all members of the maintenance committee who helped replace the basement fluorescent ceiling lights with LED replacements fixtures. The replacement lights were donated as was the labor to tear out and install the new lights. **Overall we saved over \$2700.**

OUR NEXT PROJECT will be the construction of two walls in the area off the kitchen. By doing so we will have an area for much needed storage and also a closed in meeting/classroom space away from the hustle and bustle Sunday coffee hours. Anyone interested in helping to erect, paint or donate money towards this effort please contact Jason or Father Innocent.

On the Grace of Baptism

“The grace of the Holy Spirit which is given mystically to every Christian when he is baptized acts and is manifested in proportion to our obedience to the commandments of the Lord. That is, if a Christian obeys the commandments of the Lord more, grace acts with him more, while if he obeys them less, grace acts within him less. Just as a spark, when covered in the ashes of fire becomes increasingly manifest as one removes the ashes, and the more fire wood you put the more the fire burns, so the grace that has been given to every Christian through Holy Baptism is hidden in the heart and covered up by the passions and sins, and the more a man acts in accordance with the commandments of Christ, the more he is cleansed of the passions and the more the fire of Divine grace lights in his heart, illumines and deifies him.”

+ St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain, Christian Morality