

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Don
Matushka Priscilla	Norma
Elizabeth • Marie • Marie	James
Virginia • Ignatius • Anne	
Thomas • John • Theodore	
Katherine • Roman	

Catechumens: Andrew, David,
Michael, Sergio, Rachel, Rick,
Jennifer, and Rebecca

The repose and salvation of –

Priest Athanasius (November 29)
Priest James (November 30)
Amvrosy (November 30)
Victoria (December 11)

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

This Saturday, January 12, 5:30 PM –

Great Vespers & Confession

Thursday, January 17, 6:30 PM – choir practice

Next Sunday, January 13 – Parish Council

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 6, 2019

The Holy Theophany of Our Lord



Sundays at 9:10 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy, followed by agape potluck

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day

Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Great Vespers

Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*

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The Holy Theophany of Our Lord

** Regular fasting this week **

Theophany is the feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 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” (Matthew 4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

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.

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 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” (Galatians 3:27).

Also this week: Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John (January 7); Ven. George the Chozebite, Abbot (January 8); Martyr Polyuctus of Melitene in Armenia (January 9); St Gregory of Nyssa (January 10); Ven Theodosius the Great, the Cenobiarch (January 11); St. Sava, first Archbishop of Serbia; Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those who suffered with her (January 12).

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 (Feast)

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 (Feast)

Troparion – Tone 1 (Feast)

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 (Feast)

Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, /
And Thy light, O Lord, hath shone on us /
Who with understanding praise Thee; /
Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, ///
O Light Unapproachable.

