

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemonk 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)	Reagan (November 22)
Priest James (November 30)	Kieran (November 26)
Victoria (December 11)	
Amvrosy (November 30)	

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

This Thursday, 6:30 PM – choir practice

This Saturday, January 5, 4:00 PM – Great Blessing of the Waters

This Saturday, January 5, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers & Litya for Theophany

Next Sunday, January 6, 1:00 PM – Great Blessing of the Waters @ Cherry Creek by Railbender Skate Park

Saturday, January 12, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers & Confession

Sunday, January 13 – Parish Council

*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, December 30, 2018

Sunday of the Holy Righteous Ones



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 Twelve Days of Christmas in the Orthodox Church

The Twelve Days of Christmas are a festive period linking together two Great Feasts of the Lord: Nativity and Theophany. During this period one celebration leads into another. The Nativity of Christ is a three day celebration: the formal title of the first day is “The Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ”, and celebrates not only the Nativity of Jesus, but also the Adoration of the Shepherds of Bethlehem and the arrival of the Maji; the second day is referred to as the “Synaxis of the Theotokos”, and commemorates the role of the Virgin Mary in the Incarnation; the third day is known as the “Third Day of the Nativity”, and is also the feast day of the Protodeacon and Protomartyr Saint Stephen (“proto” = “first”).

29 December is the Orthodox Feast of the Holy Innocents.

The Afterfeast of the Nativity (similar to the Western octave) continues until **31 December** (that day is known as the Apodosis or “leave-taking” of the Nativity). The Saturday following the Nativity is commemorated by special readings from the Epistle (I Timothy 6:11-16) and Gospel (Matthew 12:15-21) during the Divine Liturgy. The Sunday after Nativity has its own liturgical commemoration in honor of “The Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King and James the Brother of the Lord”.

1 January, at the center of the festal period, is another feast of the Lord (though not ranked as a Great Feast): the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord. On this same day is the feast day of Saint Basil the Great, and so the service celebrated on that day is the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil.

2 January begins the Forefeast of the Theophany.

The Eve of the Theophany (**5 January**) is a day of strict fasting, on which the devout will not eat anything until the first star is seen at night. This day is known as Paramony (“preparation”), and follows the same general outline as Christmas Eve. That morning is the celebration of the Royal Hours and then the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil combined with Vespers, at the conclusion of which is celebrated the Great Blessing of Waters, in commemoration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. There are certain parallels between the hymns chanted on Paramony and those of Good Friday, to show that, according to Orthodox theology, the steps that Jesus took into the Jordan River were the first steps on the way to the Cross. That night the All-Night Vigil is served for the Feast of the Theophany.

-- John Sanidopoulos

Also this week: *Leavetaking of the Nativity; Venerable Melania the Younger of Rome (December 31); CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD; ST BASIL THE GREAT, ABP OF CAESAREA (January 1); REPOSE OF VEN. SERAPHIM, WONDERWORKER OF SAROV (January 2); Holy Prophet Malachi; Ven Genevieve of Paris (January 3); Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles (January 4); EVE OF THEOPHANY (January 5).*

*** Fast-free all week through Friday; strict fast on Saturday ***

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 (Sunday after Nativity)

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 (Sunday after Nativity)

Troparion – Tone 6 (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Thy tomb; / The guards *became* as dead men. /
Mary stood by Thy grave, / Seeking *Thy* most pure body. /
Thou didst capture hell, / Not being tempted by it. /
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. ///
O Lord, Who didst *rise* from the dead: glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 4 (Feast)

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, / Has shone to the world the light of wisdom! /
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, / Were taught by a star to adore Thee, /
The Sun of righteousness, / And to know Thee, the Orient from on high. ///
O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 2 (Righteous Ones)

Proclaim, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God, / The amazing wonders. /
For thou hast seen a Virgin great with child, / And with shepherds thou didst glory. /
With the Magi thou didst worship / And by the angel the wonders were revealed to thee; ///
So now pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Righteous Ones)

Today David the holy *king* is filled with joy; / Joseph and James offer hymns of praise. /
They are adorned with relationship to Christ as a *crown* of glory; /
They sing to Him Who is born on earth in manner beyond understanding, ///
Crying out: Save those who adore Thee, O Merciful Lord!

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Feast)

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, /
And the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One! /
Angels with shepherds glorify Him; / The Wise Men journey with the star, ///
Since for our sake the eternal God was born as a little Child!

“Fast Questions and Fast Answers about the Geography of Orthodoxy in America” from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, full of interesting facts and an overabundance of charts and graphs: <http://www.assemblyofbishops.org/assets/files/studies/2018-12-FastQuestionsAndFastAnswersAboutOrthodoxGeography.pdf>