



Pastor:

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Today the Maker of heaven and earth comes to the Jordan in human flesh. / The sinless One asks to be baptized, / that He may cleanse the world from the error of the Enemy. / The Master of all is baptized by a servant; / through water He gives cleansing to the human race. / Let us cry aloud to Him:// / “O our God Who shone forth, glory to You!” /

Tone 2 Sticheron of the Aposticha for Theophany

A Change in Timing for the Hours and Divine Liturgy on Sundays

In January, we are conducting a trial schedule for Sunday Hours and Divine Liturgy. While we have been serving the Hours at 8:40 a.m., and beginning Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m., we are changing the schedule to discern whether a later start might help some of our brothers and sisters who live farther away from the church.

So, for the month of January, we will begin the Hours at 9:00 a.m., followed immediately by Divine Liturgy. We will reassess this arrangement at the Parish Council meeting on Sunday, February 6.

Spiritual Enrichment Classes

We are beginning a series of spiritual enrichment classes with one such class in January, and one in February, both on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. The first, “Origins of the Sacraments,” will take place on Wednesday, January 19. This presentation will deal with the meaning and development of the seven most-recognized Orthodox sacraments (Baptism, Chrismation, Communion, Marriage, Anointing the Sick, Confession and Holy Orders), as well as a few of the less-recognized (Orthodox tradition has never held strictly to just seven sacraments).

The second spiritual enrichment class, “Orthodox Champions of the Ecumenical Councils,” will occur on Wednesday,

February 9 at 7:00 p.m. This class will explore the actions and backgrounds of such Orthodox heroes as St. Athanasius, Maximus the Confessor, St. Basil the Great, Empress Irene, St. Gregory Nazianzen, and others, as well as the nature of the conflicts in which they triumphed for Orthodox Christianity as we know it today.

Holy Theophany: Doing What is Required for the Task At Hand

At Holy Theophany (January 6), our Lord Jesus Christ models for us what it is to do all things in righteousness and correct order. As is testified by the whole Church, He had no need of baptism, as He is the Son—One of the Holy Trinity. Yet, He desired it to point the way of proper action for all of us, and to provide a witness to the truth of the Holy Trinity, wherein the voice of the Father was heard, and wherein members of our human race witnessed the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Many of the Fathers of the Church testify that Christ’s holiness, sanctifying the waters of the Jordan in which He was baptized, is a mirror image of our own baptisms: the waters sanctified by Him, sanctify us. This is the basis of holy water. We call down His grace upon the water, that He might imbue the waters with power of His Holy Spirit, sanctifying the water such that it might be a blessing to all who partake, and to all that

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*Corner of Jamestown Rd.
& Robinwood Ln.
(2 blocks north of
Racetrack Rd.)

we bless with it. We will bless the water during our service of Great Vespers, which begins at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5.

So it is that we cleanse our homes periodically with holy water in the sacrament of House Blessing. This is an honorable and pious thing to do—as our Church asks us to do it, and because of that, we should see this action as an aid to our spiritual health, for it draws us closer to the Church.

House Blessing sign-up sheets will be available in the Parish Hall this weekend, so that we can all start our New Year right by arranging to have our homes blessed with a sacred service of the Church. Most people, following tradition, have their homes blessed in the week after Theophany. Technically, we have until the start of Great Lent (Monday, March 7).

Parish Patronal Feast Day with His Grace Bishop Benjamin

I believe that we can agree that the Patronal Feast Day visit by Bishop Benjamin was a real joy. His good humor, warmth and appreciation for our efforts in this mission clearly showed his generosity of spirit. Plus, the presence of Protodeacon Kirill Sokolov, Subdeacon Johann Morse (both from Holy Trinity Cathedral), and Subdeacon Arnel Salonga (from Elevation of the Holy Cross in Sacramento) added luster (and good companionship) to the weekend. His Grace's faithfulness in coming to visit each year vouchsafes his sincere love for us. *Es polla eti Dhespota!*

A Prayer for the New Year (2011)

O Lord our God, Who has placed times and seasons under Thine own authority; Who, in Thine infinite compassion and goodness, has counted us worthy to enter the New Year of Thy loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace. Loose, remit and forgive any sins that we have committed during the year that is past, and strengthen us against sin in the New Year. Enlighten us with the light of Thy truth and Thy Divine Commandments. Establish in our souls Thy holy will, and guide us to every work that is good and pleasing to Thee. Guard well our holy Church with Thy Divine Grace. Remember, O Lord, our nation; train up the youth; protect the elderly; encourage the faint-hearted; bring back those who have gone astray, and reunite them to Thy holy Church. Overshadow our Land with Thy might, and grant it temperate weather and abundance of the fruits of the earth. Speak goodness in the hearts of our leaders and civil authorities; support and strengthen them in every good thing, together with our armed forces, so that in their tranquility we may lead our life in peace, piety and dignity. Let Thy Kingdom come upon us O Lord; the kingdom of love, goodness, peace and justice; and make us worthy to praise and glorify, with one mouth and one heart, Thy most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. (From the Great Book of Needs, Russian Patriarchate translation)

May you have a very fruitful and joyous New Year!
In Christ,
Fr. Andrew

St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

*Blessed are those who love the beauty
of God's house*

Team 2—Jan. 15th; 9:00 a.m.

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Dave Harmer	January 14
Layne Williams	January 24

Anniversaries:

Alex & Natalie Teshin	January 26
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Liturgical Schedule for January, 2011

(Confessions are heard after Great Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by appointment)

Note: For the month of January, we are testing a new timing for the start of Sunday Divine Liturgy on Sundays. We will begin the Hours at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, followed immediately by Divine Liturgy. For more information, please see the notice on Fr. Andrew's page.

- Saturday, Jan. 1** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Forefeast of Theophany**
- Sunday, Jan. 2** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy for **The Forefeast of Theophany**
Scripture Readings—2 Timothy 4:5–8; Galatians 5:22–6:2 and Mark 1:1–8; Luke 6:16–23
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Wednesday, Jan. 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Blessing of the Waters for **Holy Theophany**
- Thursday, Jan. 6** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Theophany**
Scripture Readings—Titus 2:11–14; 3:4–7 and Matthew 3:13–17
- Saturday, Jan. 8** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Sunday After Theophany**
- Sunday, Jan. 9** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy for **Sunday After Theophany**
Scripture Readings—Ephesians 4:7–13 and Matthew 4:12–17
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Saturday, Jan. 15** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Jan. 16** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings—Colossians 3:4–11 and Luke 18:18–27
- Wednesday, Jan. 19** 7:00 p.m.—**Spiritual Enrichment Class** in the Church Office: *The Origins of the Sacraments*
- Saturday, Jan. 22** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers
- Sunday, Jan. 23** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy
Scripture Readings—Colossians 3:12–16 and Luke 18:35–43
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Saturday, Jan. 29** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs**
- Sunday, Jan. 30** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy for **The Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs**
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 1:15–17; Hebrews 13:7–16 and Matthew 5:14–19; 15:21–28
- ## February
- Tuesday, Feb. 1** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Litya for **The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**
- Wednesday, Feb. 2** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 7:7–17 and Luke 2:22–40
- Saturday, Feb. 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Zacchaeus Sunday**
- Sunday, Feb. 6** 9:00 a.m.—(tentatively) Hours and Divine Liturgy for **Zacchaeus Sunday**
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 4:9–15 and Luke 19:1–10
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Wednesday, Feb. 9** 7:00 p.m.—**Spiritual Enrichment Class in the Church Office: Orthodox Champions of the Ecumenical Councils**

Prayer List

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:

- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the healing of Matushka Anna.
- For health for Shay.
- For the healing of Bishop Nikolai.
- For health and strength for Athena.
- That Kiah's heart will be healed and she will not need any more surgery.

(To ask us to pray for you, your family, or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.)