



*Pastor:*

Fr. Andrew Jacobs  
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*The voice of the Lord is upon the waters crying: / "Come, one and all, / receive the Spirit of wisdom, / the Spirit of understanding, / the Spirit of the fear of God, // from Christ Who now has shone forth. ... Today the nature of the waters is sanctified. / The Jordan is parted in two; / it holds back the flow of its waters // as it beholds the washing of the Master.... You have come to the river as a Man, O Christ the King, / and hasten to be baptized like a servant by the Forerunner, // on account of our sins, O good God Who love mankind.*

—Sticherae at the Great Blessing of Waters, in Tone 8

### A Moving Experience

Brothers and Sisters, the Jacobs family has moved to yet another location in Tuolumne County. As you may recall, we began our residence here in 2005, with a homestead in Jamestown. Then, in 2010, we moved to Soulsbyville. And at last, to prepare for Matushka Elizabeth's mother Ruth coming to live with us, we have moved into Sonora proper. Our new address is 19047 Berg Court, Sonora, CA 95370. So it is that, having "bracketed" Sonora with our previous moves, we have finally landed in the center of it.

### Leaving December

The Leavetaking of Nativity is on December 31, and immediately after, we look forward to Theophany, on January 6, with the glow of Nativity still upon us. Theophany, in celebrating the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ, enhances the spiritual uplift we feel at Nativity, continuing our awareness of God's grace in our lives.

In all of this, we also recall the gracious visit of our hierarch, His Grace Bishop Benjamin, visiting us yet again; it is a great privilege that we can experience his pastoral warmth each year.

### House Blessings

In emulating Christ by our own baptisms, and in blessing those things that God has given into our hands, such as our homes and all that is in them, we enact a central part of the Christian purpose.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish dining hall for those who wish to have their homes blessed; just write down the date and time you desire for the blessing. The best time (for house blessings) is in the week following Theophany (January 6). If it can't be done then, try to have your house blessed at least in the month of January. I will be glad to answer any questions concerning house blessings; just ask after services or give me a call.

### Holy Theophany

Secular New Year begins on January 1, but the Church renews us spiritually on January 6, Theophany. This Baptism in the Jordan of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by His Forerunner John, emphasizes Christ's humility, and His gracious modeling for us what it means to do that which is right and good, no matter who we are.

As Christ condescended to be baptized in the sacrament (in which we are all sanctified), He also sanctified the waters in which

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

He was baptized. Just so, He gave us His Church, through which we have the means to sanctify ourselves and our surroundings, so that we may lift up His Creation to that exalted state to which God intended for His Creation.

We are all part of the royal priesthood of believers because our baptisms open us up to participation in the Body of Christ, in which each of us have a common role. This role requires nothing less than this “lifting up”—this sanctifying—of our circumstances and surroundings. We do this by living Jesus’ description of the Christian life in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7), and by participating in the Sacraments of the Church.

### Hours Readings

January 1	SBDN Nicolas
January 8	Dave Harmer
January 15	Jan Williams
January 22	SBDN Nicolas
January 29	Dave Harmer

Anyone who would like to read the Hours before liturgy, please contact Subdeacon Nicolas Teshin at 209-536-1625 to be added to the list or for more information.

### St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

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

**Team 2—Jan. 21st; 9:00 a.m.**

### Heads Up! Great Lent in February

The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, on February 2, presages the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (February 5), which in turn prepares us for the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (February 12), and then the Sunday of the Last Judgment (February 19)—famously known as Meatfare Sunday, on which we will, ideally, consume the last meat we will eat until Holy Pascha (April 15). This then prepares us for Forgiveness Sunday (February 26), which is also known as Cheesefare Sunday, on which, ideally, we will consume the last dairy products we will eat or drink until Pascha. On the Monday immediately after Forgiveness Sunday (with its glorious Rite of Forgiveness), the Great Lenten Fast begins.

We will discuss the Lenten Fast more thoroughly in the February Newsletter. If there are any questions, I’ll be glad to help.

Therefore, in the spirit of Theophany, let us prepare for a blessed and fruitful New Year, by remembering Christ’s example, and lift up our homes, our lives and all those around us to the blessing of our Lord.

In Christ,  
*Fr. Andrew*

### 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, 2012

*Note: The Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment class takes place Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the nave of the church.*

**Saturday, Dec. 31** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the **Forefeast of Theophany**

**Sunday, Jan. 1** 10:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the **Forefeast of Theophany**  
Scripture Readings—2 Timothy 4:5–8 and Mark 1:1–8

### HOLY THEOPHANY

**Thursday, Jan. 5** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Blessing of the Waters for **The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Friday, Jan. 6** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**  
Scripture Readings—Titus 2:11–14 and 3:4–7; and Matthew 3:13–17  
*Note: Traditionally, house blessings are done during Theophany week.*  
*See the Pastor's page for details.*

**Saturday, Jan. 7** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

**Sunday, Jan. 8** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—Ephesians 4:7–13 and Matthew 4:12–17  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*  
*Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after the potluck luncheon.*

**Saturday, Jan. 14** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

**Sunday, Jan. 15** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 1:15–17 and Luke 18:18–27

**Saturday, Jan. 21** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers

**Sunday, Jan. 22** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy  
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 1:15–17 and Luke 18:35–43  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*

**Saturday, Jan. 28** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Zacchaeus Sunday**

**Sunday, Jan. 29** 9:00 a.m.—Hours and Divine Liturgy for **Zacchaeus Sunday**  
Scripture Readings—1 Timothy 4:9–15; and Luke 19:1–10

## February

**Wednesday, Feb. 1** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Litya for **The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple**

**Thursday, 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. 4** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**

**Sunday, Feb. 5** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**  
Scripture Readings—2 Timothy 3:10–15 and Luke 18:10–14  
*Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.*  
*Note: This is a Sunday of preparation for Great Lent—No Fasting This Week.*

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- Saturday, Feb. 11** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**
- Sunday, Feb. 12** 9:00 a.m.— Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
 Scripture Readings—1 Corinthians 6:12–20 and Luke 15:11–32  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*
- Saturday, Feb. 18** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)**
- Sunday, Feb. 19** 9:00 a.m.— Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)**  
 Scripture Readings—Corinthians 8:8–9:2 and Matthew 15:31–46  
**Note: Traditionally, after this Sunday, we stop eating meat until Pascha.**
- Saturday, Feb. 25** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)**
- Sunday, Feb. 26** 9:00 a.m.— Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)**  
 Scripture Readings—Romans 13:11–14:4 and Matthew 6:14–21  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*  
*Note: Forgiveness Vespers, with the Rite of Forgiveness, will take place after the luncheon.*  
**Note: After this Sunday, we stop eating dairy products until Pascha.**
- Monday, Feb. 27** **The beginning of the Great Lenten Fast**, which ends on Pascha (April 15).  
 If you have questions, please consult Fr. Andrew.

## 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.
- For healing of Benjamin.

### ***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 and strength for Athena.
- For the healing of Glenn.
- For the healing of Jacob.
- For health and wisdom for Dolly.
- For health for Natasha.
- For health and strength for Anna.
- For health and healing for Ron.
- For healing for Jan.
- For health and spiritual strength for Alex.
- For health and healing for Fr. John.
- For health and healing for Jackson.
- For health and healing for Savannah.
- For Hannah, that she will see God’s will in her missionary work in Honduras.
- For a girl and her mother.

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