

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

**\*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\***

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated by St. George Orthodox Church

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**Altar Candles** are offered by Anthony DelNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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**TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

**THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

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**27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2. Second Day of the Feast of the Nativity . Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos . Sunday after Nativity. Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord.** Hieromartyr Euthymius, Bishop of Sardis (ca. 840). Ven. Constantine of Synnada (8th c.). Ven. Evaristus of the Studion Monastery (9th c.). Saint Nikódēmos the Sanctified of Tismana, Romania (Macedonia—1406). Hieromartyr Constantine the Russian of Lavra on Mt. Athos (Mt. Athos—1743).

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**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

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**EPISTLE LESSON**

Galatians 1:11-19

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 2:13-23

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**Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!**

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . . ", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



## HYMNS FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY

### Troparion for The Resurrection — Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

### Troparion for The Holy Fathers — Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest; and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

### Konatkion for The Holy Fathers — Tone 6

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire. From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying: "Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid,// for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

## THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY

Galatians 1:11-19

### **Brethren:**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.

But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

## THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY

Matthew 2:13-23

### **Let us Attend!**

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which

## **PROKEMEINON Tone 4**

The Song of The Fathers:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

*v. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us*

## **ALLELUIA VERSES**

*We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.*

*For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.*

## **THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

It is truly meet to bless You, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim. Without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You!

## **COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

## **LOVE CONQUERS ALL**

***LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14***

***YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37***

***YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39***

***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44***

***LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4***

***LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8***

**Upcoming Events within The Life of our Parish/Diocese**

**DECEMBER 2021**{Nativity Fast: Nov. 15-Dec. 24}

**24/25 – THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
December 23**

9:00 AM – The Service of Royal Hours

**December 24** (Eve of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:00 AM – Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

4:30 PM – Nativity Vigil Service

**December 25** (The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

(Brunch in Parish Fellowship Hall)

**December 26** (2<sup>nd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

10:00 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Nativity Luncheon at Church following Divine Liturgy

Christmas Caroling around The Neighborhood

**December 27** (3<sup>rd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**26** – Church School Christmas Caroling around The Neighborhood/Delaware Park

**31 – Eve of Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/  
New Year's Day**

**Great Vespers with Litiya – 4:00 PM**

*\*Church School Children decorate Holy Water Bottles at home with parents and bring back to church on Sunday January 10 for Blessing of Water!\**

**\*\*Please refer to the weekly bulletin, monthly calendar  
and our church website for any changes to the calendar\*\***

**Saturday January 1, 2022**

9:15 A.M. The Hours

9:30 A.M. Festive Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

followed by Moleben for the New Year and The Blessing of St. Basil Bread

**Sunday January 2, 2022**

9:40 A.M. The Hours

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy

Following Liturgy, Festive Parish Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall

**PLEASE SHARE THESE EVENTS WITH EVERYONE!!**

**THE SCHEDULE OF  
WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 26, 2021**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY**

Synaxis of The Theotokos

**Festal Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM**

**Parish Luncheon Fellowship in the  
Parish Fellowship Hall following  
Divine Liturgy!**

**Coffee Hour Host: Parish Family**

**MONDAY DECEMBER 27, 2021**

**Festal Typika Prayer Service – 9:00 AM**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**Eve of The Feast of**

**Circumcision of**

**Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/  
New Year's Day**

**Great Vespers with Litiya – 4:30 PM**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 1, 2022**

**The Feast of Circumcision of**

**Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/  
New Year's Day**

**Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:30 AM**

followed by Moleben for the New  
Year and The Blessing of St. Basil  
Bread

**SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2022**

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE  
THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**The Hours – 9:40 AM**

**Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM**

followed by and The Blessing of  
St. Basil Bread

**Coffee Hour Fellowship in the  
Parish Fellowship Hall following  
Divine Liturgy!**

**Coffee Hour Host:**

### **An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!**

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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### **An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!**

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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### **"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL**

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

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### **PARISH THEME FOR 2021:**

#### **Orthodox Christian Stewardship**

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship** is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. **Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges** accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco: "The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

**Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!**



**A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE**

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

- Candles
- 7-Day Vigil Candles
- Flowers for Feast Days
- Charcoal
- Altar Wine
- Cups for Zapifka
- Snack Baggies for the Antidoron (Church Bread)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a parish family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

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**\*Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!\***

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**WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL**

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website:

<http://www.nynjoca.org>!

There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH OCMC PARISH AMBASSADORS**

To The Glory of God, our parish has been blessed with two parishioners who have answered The Call of Our Lord to be Parish Ambassadors for OCMC guiding us to help bring The Gospel of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ of “Making Disciples of All Nations baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit!”

Anthony Gregory DelNuovo and John Moses Lutz are our Parish Ambassadors for OCMC (The Orthodox Christian Mission Center). To help the good work being done by The OCMC of supporting Missionaries around the world, our parish will be sponsoring and supporting a missionary on a annual basis. The cost is only \$600/year. So far we have \$450 collected for next year’s sponsorship. If anyone would like to make a donation, please see or contact Anthony or John. We express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has graciously donated so far. Thank you for kindness and generosity.

For more information about The OCMC, please visit their website:  
[www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)

Another blessing for our parish of continuing the Good Work that has been entrusted to us of bringing The Gospel Message to All! Lord it is good to be here!

**Scriptural Readings for the Week**

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**Monday**  
Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60  
Matthew 21:33-42  
2 Timothy 2:20-26  
Mark 10:46-52

**Tuesday**  
2 Timothy 3:16-4:4  
Mark 11:11-23

**Wednesday**  
2 Timothy 4:9-22  
Mark 11:22-26

**Thursday**  
Titus 1:5-2:1  
Mark 11:27-33

**Friday**  
1 Timothy 6:11-16  
Matthew 12:15-21  
Titus 1:15-2:10  
Mark 12:1-12

**Saturday**  
Colossians 2:8-12  
Luke 2:20-21,40-52  
Hebrews 7:26-8:2  
Luke 6:17-23  
1 Timothy 3:14-4:5  
Matthew 3:1-11

**Sunday**  
Galatians 5:22-6:2  
Luke 6:17-23  
2 Timothy 4:5-8  
Mark 1:1-8



**Remember our Loved Ones  
during Our Daily Prayers**

*'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the  
least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

*{Matt. 25:40}*

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS  
(2021)**

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Mrs. Diane Salvamoser<br>147 West Hazeltine Avenue<br>Kenmore, NY 14217<br>716.875.9503 | Reader Victor Shanchuk<br>McAuley Residence<br>1503 Military Rd.<br>Buffalo, NY 14217<br>716.881.3096 | Mrs. Luba Japadjief<br>Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit)<br>245 Bassett Road<br>Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30) |
|---|---|---|

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Bonnie Dan<br>15 Pine Street<br>North Tonawanda, NY 14150<br>716.693.1377 | Mr. Albert Fadell<br>317.376.2562 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Andrew Wityk<br>Ellicott Center<br>200 Seventh Street<br>Buffalo, NY 14201 | Mrs. Tita Abraham<br>84 Stonington Lane<br>Getzville, NY 14068 | James Stephen Silver<br>20 Traymore Street<br>Buffalo, NY 14216 |
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**IMPORTANT PARISH  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Resurrection Life Food Pantry, Baker Victory as well as our other outreach ministry projects.
- **WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

**\*\*Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:**

- 1) Reader Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES**
- 2) Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) Pastoral Video for Parish Monthly Update**

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EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING

**THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING THE MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 28, 2021 – 3,060.80  
DECEMBER 5, 2021 – \$6, 526.00  
DECEMBER 12, 2021 - \$2, 354.00  
Commercial Savings Account Deposit - \$500.00 (12.5.12)**

**DONATION TO THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) - - \$300.00 (11.28.21) \$319.00 (12.5.21) \$1,220.00 (12.12.21)**

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**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!**

**THE SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF  
THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD  
THE GREAT FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD**

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION  
OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST/ST. BASIL THE GREAT/NEW YEAR'S DAY**

|                 |                        |                         |  |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Friday</b>   | <b>December 31</b>     | 4:00 P.M.               | Great Vespers with Litiya  |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>January 1, 2022</b> | 9:15 A.M.<br>9:30 A.M.  | The Hours<br>Festive Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great<br>followed by Moleben for the New Year and The Blessing of St. Basil Bread |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | <b>January 2, 2022</b> | 9:40 A.M.<br>10:00 A.M. | The Hours<br>Divine Liturgy<br>Following Liturgy, Festive Parish Luncheon in Parish Fellowship Hall                                    |

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 4, 2022** 9:00 A.M. Royal Hours for The Feast of Holy Theophany

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5, 2022 {STRICT FAST DAY}**

**EVE OF THE GREAT FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

9:00 A.M. Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great followed by Lesser Blessing of Water

6:00 P.M. Great Compline with Litiya

**THURSDAY JANUARY 6, 2022**

**THE GREAT FEAST OF THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

9:30 A.M. Festal Divine Liturgy followed by The Great Blessing of Water and  
The Blessing of The Church and Parish Fellowship Hall

**FRIDAY JANUARY 7** 6:30-9:00 P.M. Parish Family Paint Night

**Saturday January 8** 4:00 P.M. Great Vespers

**Sunday January 9**  
9:40 A.M. The Hours  
10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy  
Following Divine Liturgy, Coffee Hour Fellowship in Parish Fellowship Hall  
Church School Class (in-person and Google Classroom)  
Annual Blessing of Water at Hoyt Lake - 1:30 PM

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR PARISH**

We will continue to celebrate The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Newly Updated Pastoral Guidelines for our Parish and the new directives from Erie County:

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, all who wish to attend the Divine Service and Fellowship Activities here at our Parish of St George Orthodox Church will be required to wear a mask while indoors (inside of The Church and The Parish Fellowship Hall) This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!
- We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone both in the Church and in The Parish Fellowship Hall to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.

\* The choir will continue to sing up front

\* The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 17 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.

\* We will continue to use the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.

\* We will be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer

\* The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week and after every service

\* The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized throughout the week as well as a thorough cleaning/sanitizing every week by hiring our Professional Cleaner (Rocco) who will come in every week on Saturday Night to clean and sanitize the Parish Fellowship Hall and Restrooms. When Hosting Coffee Hour, we will need to be wearing masks as well as use gloves and proper utensils. Following Coffee Hour, the table and chairs will need to be properly sanitized as well as put away properly along with the kitchen and countertops need to be cleaned and properly sanitized,

\* With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy. We do NOT need to sign-up beforehand but rather we will need to sign in at The Candle Desk when we come to church. This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that I have a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case, God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance.

We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

\*\*If anyone has any questions or concerns,  
please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason,  
Paul or any member of the Parish Council!\*\*

May God continue to bless and guide all of you!\*\*

# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM

SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

~ All are Welcome ~

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?

Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?

Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?

Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions

in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,

Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "**The Church**" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:

[http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\\_embedded&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1)

For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?', 'Who we Are?', and 'How we Live?', please view the PDF link below:

<http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf>

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith>

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:

<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

<http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

**Commemoration of the Holy Righteous David the King, Joseph the Betrothed,  
and James the Brother of the Lord**



The Holy Prophet-King David, Saint Joseph the Betrothed, and Saint James the Brother of the Lord are commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity. If there is no Sunday between December 25 and January 1, their commemoration is moved to December 26.

At an early date, some churches in the East began to commemorate certain important figures of the New Testament at the time of Theophany, and later during the Nativity season. In Syria, for example, Saint Stephen (December 27), Saints James (April 30) and John (September 26), and Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) were commemorated near the end of December.

In Jerusalem, the saints mentioned above were combined with a feast that the Jews of Hebron celebrated on December 25 or 26 in honor of the Old Testament Patriarch Jacob. Later on, the Christians substituted Saint James (October 23) for Jacob, and then the commemoration of the Brother of the Lord became associated with his ancestor King David. In time, Saint Joseph was linked with Saints David and James.

Saint Joseph had four sons from his previous marriage: James, Judah and Simon (or Symeon), and three daughters: Esther, Martha, and Salome, who was the mother of Saint John the Theologian.

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## **The Second Day of the Nativity of our Lord: Thy Synaxis of The Most-Holy Theotokos**

### **December 26**

On the day after the Nativity of Christ we celebrate the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos, and come together to give her glory and praise. This is the second day of the three day Winter Pascha.

Combining the hymns of the Nativity with those celebrating the Mother of God, the Church points to Mary as the one through whom the Incarnation was made possible. His humanity—concretely and historically—is the humanity He received from Mary. His body is, first of all, her body. His life is her life. This feast, the assembly in honor of the Theotokos, is probably the most ancient feast of Mary in the Christian tradition, the very beginning of her veneration by the Church.

Six days of post-feast bring the Christmas season to a close on December 31. At the services of all these days, the Church repeats the hymns and songs glorifying Christ's Incarnation,

reminding us that the source and foundation of our salvation is only to be found in the One who, as God before the ages, came into this world and for our sake was “born as a little Child.”

On the second day of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church has established the celebration of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Mother of God. The name of today's festival signifies the gathering of the faithful in order to praise and glorify the All-Holy Virgin, who gave birth to our Savior. On the first day of the Nativity of the Lord, the Church glorifies the Redeemer of the human race, and the blessed deliverance which freed the sinful world from the snares of the Enemy. On the second day of the Nativity of the Lord, which was such a great event for our salvation, the Church calls upon us to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of our Lord, in an appropriate manner.

The day after many of the Church's Feast Days is called the Synaxis - such as the day after the Nativity of the Theotokos, when the righteous Joachim and Anna are commemorated; or the day following the Feast of Theophany, when we honor Saint John the Baptist, etc.

The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God dates back to very ancient times. In the IV century, some Holy Fathers, such as Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus (May 12), were already preaching about it.

In the ancient Menaia, the Feast of the Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos was called "the Nativity Gifts." This refers to the gifts which the Magi from the East brought to the newborn King of the Jews - the Divine Child Jesus. The Feast of the Synaxis of the Mother of God was also called "the Flight into Egypt."

On December 26, the early Church commemorated the Wise Men who came to worship the Savior, and the flight into Egypt, as well as the Synaxis of the Mother of God. That is why some icons of the Nativity of the Lord depict His Birth, the worship of the shepherds and the Magi, as well as the Flight into Egypt.

Sometimes the inscription reads "The Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos."

Now, however, we commemorate "the Adoration of the Magi: Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthasar, and also the shepherds in Bethlehem who were watching their flocks and came to see the Lord" on the first day of the Nativity (December 25), but the Flight into Egypt is commemorated separately on December 26, the second day of the Nativity.

Before the massacre of the 14,000 Holy Innocents (December 29), an Angel warned Saint Joseph to take the Child and His Mother and flee to Egypt and to remain there until the Angel brought him word that it was safe for him to return to Nazareth, "for Herod will seek the child to destroy him" (Matthew 2:13). In the icon of the Flight into Egypt there are mountains. The

Virgin sits on a donkey with her Child, looking back at Joseph. He holds a staff, and his cloak is thrown over his shoulder. A young man (Tradition says this was Saint Joseph's son James, the Brother of the Lord) leads the donkey carrying a rush basket, and looks back at the Virgin. Behind them is a fortified town with idols toppling from the walls.

This event was prophesied by Isaiah: "Behold, the Lord sits on a swift cloud,<sup>1</sup> and shall come to Egypt, and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at His presence, and their heart shall faint within them" (Isaiah 19:1); and the Prophet Hosea alludes to it: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1). This is also mentioned in the Church's hymns.

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***LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14***

***YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37***

***YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39***

***LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44***

***LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4***

***LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8***





## Responding to God

*Christ is born! Glorify Him!*

As we **continue the celebration** of our Lord's Nativity in Bethlehem, we remember how different people responded to the **birth of Jesus Christ**.

Joseph listened to the angel sent by God, fleeing in the middle of the night, taking Mary and the infant Christ to Egypt. Why? Because King Herod's response to the birth of Christ was filled with anger, feeling threatened by the Savior's birth.

### ◊ *Hearing God's Voice*

We also have an opportunity to **respond to God**. Whether we are in school, on winter break, at church, or at home, **God calls us to follow Him**.

The **grace of God** enables us to **receive His love**, planting it in our hearts to grow and mature, shaping how we live each day of our lives. Our response to God is fully expressed in living our Orthodox Faith with joy and gratitude.

### *Being God's Voice*

Our participation in the divine liturgy provides us with **the gospel readings** to teach us about God's love, and **the Eucharist**: that physical expression of God's love **wiping away our sins**, restoring us to communion with God.

The Body and Blood of Christ provides the **spiritual nourishment** necessary to live in the world. No matter how crazy things may get, we can rejoice. By singing His praises, we **give thanks** for the blessings received.

### *Illuminating the World*

As we draw closer to God like the wise men, we begin to understand how an encounter with **God** is rooted in **compassion and love**. As the **Light of the world**, Jesus Christ gives us the peace and joy to endure any situation we may face.

When our relationship with God is grounded in a desire to know Him, **scripture** and **our Orthodox Faith** are the tools which brings us closer to God and each other.

### *A New Year*

God is always **present in our lives**. The coming year may have moments of sorrow and times of happiness, and God will help us to **accept both in humility**, and with **faith like Joseph**.

The grace of God helps us recognize and **acknowledge His blessings**. It also inspires us to share our gifts, becoming **bearers of the light of Christ** in the world.

### ◊ *Scripture Readings* for the Sunday after the Nativity

Epistle: **Galatians 1:11-19**

Gospel: **Matthew 2:13-23**

### ◊ *Hymns of the Day*

#### **Troparion/Apolytikion — Tone 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overturned! Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy."

**Tropar./Apol. (Ss. Joseph, David, James) — T2**  
Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God:

You saw a Virgin great with Child, you gave glory with the shepherds, you worshipped with the Magi, you received the news from the angel.

Pray to Christ God to save our souls!

#### **Kontakion (Resurrection) — Tone 4**

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!

#### **Kontakion (Ss. Joseph, David, James) — T3**

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise.

The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.

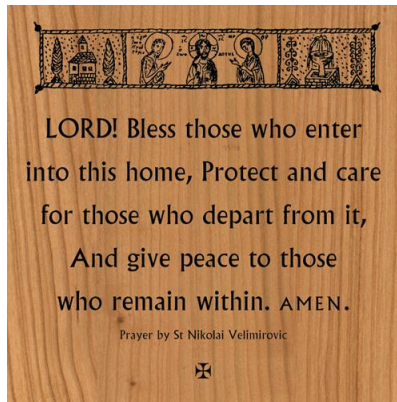
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: "O Compassionate One, save those who honor You!"

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors: Watch for the ◊ to indicate topics/questions you can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use the corresponding study guide for this resource.



BE SURE TO CONTACT MAT. FRAN REGARDING THE NEW 2022 COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE  
AS WELL AS SEE IT LOCATED IN THE SIGN-UP LINK ON THE PARISH WEBSITE!!

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**HOME BLESSING**

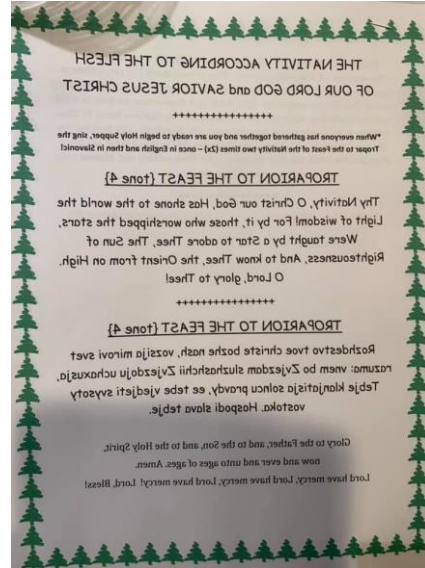
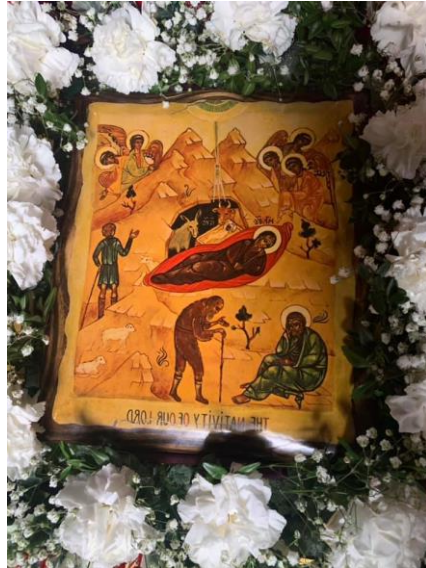
**HOME BLESSING**

BE SURE TO CONTACT FR. JASON TO SCHEDULE A TIME AND DAY FOR HIM TO COME AND BLESS YOUR HOME DURING THE THEOPHANY SEASON!! HOMES WILL BE BLESSED DURING THE THEOPHANY SEASON ALL THE WAY UP TO THE BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT. AS A REMAINDR, WE CAN HAVE OUR HOMES BLESSED ANYTIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR 😊

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BE SURE TO SEE THE 2022 READER SCHEDULE (Hours and Epistle) SIGN UP SHEET LOCATED IN THE PARISH FELLOWSHIP HALL AS WELL AS ON THE PARISH WEBSITE!! Please see Fr. Jason or Rdr John interested in Reading during The Divine Service.



## ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

### 2022 HOME BLESSING SCHEDULE

# The Blessing of Homes

The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. It is not simply a sentimental tradition without meaning, nor is it a custom whose meaning we have forgotten, like an old friend whose face we remember, but whose impact on our life has been forgotten.

When an Orthodox Christian believer moves into a new home, he dedicates his new home as the abode of a follower of Christ. He asks that God, the source of all goodness and the Giver of every perfect gift, to bless his house and all that is within it; he recalls that Jesus Christ, His Son, came to bring Salvation to all, even as He brought Salvation to the house of Zaccheus; he prays that the Holy Spirit may abide in it, guiding those who dwell in it in the Paths of righteousness.

On the Feast of Theophany we rededicate our home for its original purpose, just as we must periodically rededicate our life to Christ. We do it especially on this Feast because this is the day on which we remember in the Church Year the coming of Christ who began His Ministry when He descended into Jordan to be Baptized by St. John the Forerunner and Baptist. He enters again into our lives reminding us that we must "repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

An Orthodox Christian must dedicate not only himself and his house to the Lord, but his daily work and all his efforts as well. All things are to be done to the glory of God. That is why in the Orthodox Church, not only religious objects, such as icons, crosses, churches and vestments, are blessed, but also homes, fields, animals and all objects which are used in our daily life for the good of man. In this the Church expresses its faith that the Holy Spirit's sanctifying action extends over the whole Creation.

### **The Feast Of Theophany**

The Feast of Theophany (or Epiphany) commemorates the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. We know from the troparion of the day that "the Trinity was made manifest" to us. But there's more to

it than this. "When Jesus descends into the depths of the river, there occurs a profound upheaval. It is not the one baptized who is purified, for he is spotless; but it is the water that is transfigured and illumined. This water, which was believed to be transparent and purifying, is in fact polluted, inhabited by evil spirits, servants of the old gods. ... By purifying the elements, by sanctifying matter, Jesus frees the cosmos from the powers of evil." (*The Incarnate God, Vol. I*, Catherine Aslanoff, French edition editor, translated by Paul Meyendorff, p.163.)

### **The Great Blessing of Water and the Home**

The Great Blessing of Water takes place at the end of that day's Liturgy. Since our homes cannot be brought to the Church, the Church - through the priest and cantor - go to the homes. There the service of blessing, which began in the church, is finished with the sprinkling of water in the home. Traditionally, in most Orthodox parishes, the priest personally visits all his parishioners each year to pray with them in the place where they live, and to bless their surroundings with the newly sanctified water of Theophany (January 6/13). By sanctifying our living quarters, our private place, we extend the grace of God to our individual dwellings. (In very large parishes a yearly visit may not be possible. In areas of the country where the winter is harsh, I know of at least one parish where houses are blessed at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year in September.)

We also bring the blessed water to our homes to use throughout the year to bless our homes and to drink whether we are ill or as part of our daily prayer life. "There are many occasions in family life when a sip of holy water can help to remind us of the blessing that was given 'to bestow sanctification', 'unto healing of soul and body', 'to be a fountain welling forth unto life eternal', as the priest prayed in the litany of Epiphany day." (*Little Falcons: Water*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1998, p.33.)

### **Weaving Christ into Our Lives**

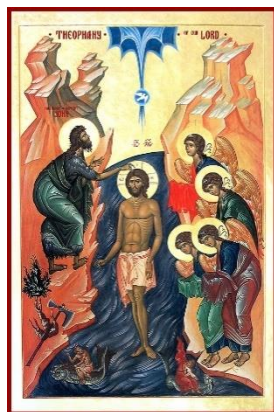
The blessing of homes by these holy waters maintains the spiritual association between the 'family church' and the parish, as well as again providing for the sharing of God's spiritual gifts. ... This annual blessing is not as elaborate as the blessing of the new dwelling, but because of this it should not be overlooked, for it is in this way that the grace of God is extended to individual dwellings." (*Marriage and the Christian Home*, p.25.) If the priest comes to bless the home when the children are present, they have the opportunity to see the parish priest in a different and personal situation. If the priest permits, they can lead the way through the house, or hold a candle. They can show him their rooms or pets or favorite toys. They receive a blessing with water. For children, the house blessing shows the connection of the Church to the home.

### **In Summary**

What does it mean to ask God to bless something? All things in the world have been spoiled right along with us. God must bless His world again in order for it to be the way that He wants it to be. For this reason God sent His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the world: to bless everyone and everything that He made, to make all things good again. When the priest comes to bless our homes, he asks God to have mercy on the house, to rid it of every evil and to fill it with every blessing. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year!

If anyone would like to have their home blessed this year, please contact Fr. Jason with any specific day and time that would be best for him to come and bless your home. You can contact Fr. Jason at (716) 875-4222 or (609)851-3811 or email him at [jvansuch@hotmail.com](mailto:jvansuch@hotmail.com) and he will be in contact with you to make other

arrangements. As Fr. Jason makes his pastoral visitations to the homes of the parishioners, he will use the sign-up sheet as a guideline for him to follow. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let Fr. Jason know. May God continue to bless and guide all of you and your families. May you have a Holy and Blessed Nativity of Our Lord, a Holy and Blessed Theophany Season and a Blessed, Healthy, and Happy New Year.



## **THE GREAT BLESSING OF WATERS HOYT LAKE – DELAWARE PARK SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 2022 1:30 PM**

**Let us come together during this Holy Theophany Season, and join the clergy and the faithful from our sister parishes as we bless the waters of Hoyt Lake in Delaware Park.**

### **DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO HOYT LAKE**

START: 2 Nottingham Terrace, Buffalo, NY 14216  
Head south on Nottingham Terrace toward Meadow Rd  
Turn left onto Elmwood Ave

Turn left onto Iroquois Dr

Turn right onto Lincoln Pkwy

END: Destination will be on the left: 199 Lincoln Parkway,  
Buffalo, NY 14222



**THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends  
of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY  
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and The Orthodox Church in America

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