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**29<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF PENTECOST -Tone 5. Sunday After the Theophany.** (Martyr Tatiana of Rome and Martyr Mertius, Martyr Peter and Ven. Eupraxia, St. Sava I, Archbishop of Serbia. Ven. Martinian.

Eph. 4:7-13 :5-7      Matthew 4:12-17

## Announcements

### Liturgical Schedule:

**SUNDAYS: Divine Liturgy of St. John 9:30 am**

**Saturdays: Great Vespers -- 4:00 pm**

### Understanding The Divine Liturgy:

**On Sunday, Jan. 26 Father will speak on the understanding the Divine Liturgy after coffee hour. Blessing of Homes, please call Father to schedule a time for your house to be Blessed.**

## **Sanctity of Life Sunday 2020 Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon**

**January 19, 2020**

Thus, if we recognize that our purpose in this life is to become images of God, we must also forgive, help, pray for, and love all those who have committed wrong. In imitation of our loving God, whose mercy is immeasurable, we too must love those who have been involved in the evil of abortion, showing mercy and compassion to the poor, desperate, and confused parents who have committed abortions, and praying fervently for the repentance of abortion doctors and advocates everywhere. We must love them and forgive them their sins, knowing that God loves all of humanity and is willing to forgive all sins.

At the same time, we cannot allow any excuse for abortion. We firmly believe that a new person comes into being in the moment of conception, and because of this, we must ever strive to prevent abortions from happening, making sure our local communities know of the many Christian-supported pregnancy crisis services available to unprepared and confused young parents. In turn, our churches must ever be willing to love and help such parents and their unborn children.

Thus, this year, as we mark the sorrowful 47th anniversary of the legalization of abortion, we remember to hate the sin of abortion, and to make ever effort we can to stop it from happening, while loving the misguided and confused ones who have been involved in abortions, knowing that God is willing to forgive all transgressions. In this way, we fulfill the purpose that God has given us in this life to become His images and presence in the world, while helping others – unborn and born alike – to have that same opportunity to come to “the knowledge of the truth” and fulfill their own lives’ God-intended purposes. For this “truth,” as we all should be reminded of again and again, is that:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. *For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*” - John 3:16-17

With love in Christ,

+Tikhon