



Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

Fr. John Shimechick, Rector (856) 665-2491

www.holycrossmedford.org

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

29TH Sunday after Theophany

Afterfeast of Theophany / Martyr Polyeuctus of Melitene in Armenia / Prophet Shemaiah / St. Peter Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia / St. Eustratius the Wonderworker / Hieromartyr Philip Metropolitan of Moscow and all Russia

Liturgical and Events Schedule

- All services are Live Streamed unless otherwise noted.
- Masks are mandatory.

Sunday, January 9

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy & Sunday School

Wednesday, January 12

7:00 pm: Evening Prayers by Zoom

Saturday, January 15

5:00 pm: Great Vespers

Church News!



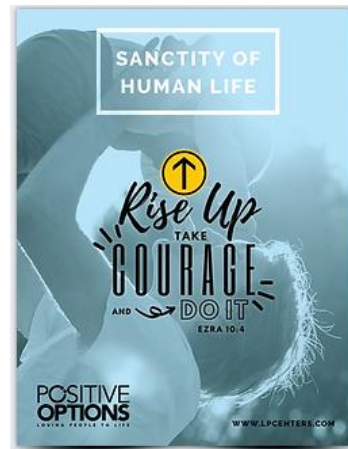
House Blessings will be delayed & rescheduled depending on Covid.

Sanctity of Life Sunday Announced for 2022

SYOSSET, NY [OCA]: His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 16, 2022 as Sanctity of Life Sunday to be observed in parishes of

the Orthodox Church in America and has released the statement below. Prayers and petitions for the liturgical services are available on oca.org.

Sanctity of Life Sunday will be a precursor to the March for Life on January 21, 2022, on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortion in the United States of America. His Beatitude will be present and gather with the Orthodox faithful from across the country to remember the victims of abortion.



The March for Life will begin with a Divine Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, D.D. and conclude at the Supreme Court building. A complete schedule of events will be posted in the coming weeks. More information can be found at Orthodox

Christians for Life.



All our current Parish Council Officers have reached their term limits. The following positions are open:

Warden	Asst. Warden
Treasurer	Asst. Treasurer
Secretary	

Job descriptions, training and support are available for those considering this important service to our parish. Please speak to Fr. John as soon as possible.

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PREACHING THE NATIVITY

by Archpriest Eric G. Tosi

"The Church now calls us to meet Christ Who comes from heaven."

St. John of San Francisco
Nativity Epistle of 1962

**Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!**

Very often, we think of the Feasts and celebrations of the Church as something that happened "back then". We consign them to history and believe that when we are at services, we are simply just remembering an ancient event.

But the truth, the eschatological reality, is that the Feasts are happening *right now*. When we attend the services we are not just remembering: we are *participating* ... here and now. The services are not a nostalgic glimpse into the past. Rather, the services stand us in the very same place where the events of the holy days happened, witnessing the story of our salvation unfold for us. Indeed, the Eucharist itself is not something we



remember as history, but it is the Body and Blood of Christ present in this very moment! The same is true for every service we celebrate ... we participate *right now* and we witness to Christ's birth *right now*.

So, when we come to the Feast of the Nativity, we are not merely pondering a distant moment that happened 2,000 years ago in a remote cave in Bethlehem. We are standing in the cave before the Christ Child! We are rejoicing with His Mother, His foster father Joseph, the shepherds and the angels! We must witness to that reality before a world that has relegated the Feast to just another "happy holiday".

As Fr. Thomas Hopko wrote in *The Winter Pascha*, "The world today urgently needs divine celebration. And so do many Christians and Christian churches."

When we celebrate the birth of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, we are standing in His presence! That fact should have a profound impact on our communities. It needs to resonate in our souls as we worship Christ and hymn His Birth.

So let us hasten to witness to the Christ Child so that all may come to worship Him who gives us life. Let us stand in awe before the Cave, and let us share with all the Divine Mystery of love that unfolds there, the love of a God Who is here with us now and forever.



The Place of Christ's Birth,
Basilica of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Koinonia December 2021 Issues

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