

January 19, 2020

2 Timothy 2: 11-14 & 3: 4-7

Mark 3: 13 - 17

Upcoming Services:

- Sun. Jan. 19, 9:00 am. - Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters for Theophany
- Sat. Jan. 25, 5:00 pm. - Great Vespers
- Sun. Jan. 26, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45
- Sat. Feb. 1, 5:00 pm. - Great Vespers
- Sun. Feb. 2, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

January Vespers: Vespers will be starting at 5pm in January

Reader Schedule:
 Sun. Jan. 19 - Cynthia Neff
 Sun. Jan. 26 - Kurtis Lauser
 Sun. Feb. 2 - Jim Hamer
 Sun. Feb. 9 - Wesley Hatch

Theophany - Blessing of the Waters

Theophany is the feast which reveals the most holy trinity to the world through the baptism of the Lord, when God the father spoke from heaven about the son, and the son was baptized by St. John the Forerunner, and the holy spirit descended upon the son in the form of a dove. In commemoration of this event, the great Blessing of Water is performed on this day, and the holy water so blessed is used by the local priest to bless the homes of the faithful.

The Lord was baptized, not because he himself had need for cleansing, but, according to St. John of Damascus, "to bury human sin by water, to fulfill the law, to reveal the mystery of the holy trinity, and to sanctify the nature of water and to offer us the form and example of baptism."

From ancient times this feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights. It was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

On the feast of the Baptism of Christ, the holy church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one god in three persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the holy trinity, one in essence and indivisible. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

"Let the thirsty wilderness be glad, let the desert rejoice, let it blossom as a rose. Let it blossom abundantly; let everything rejoice. Go to that water, oh you who thirst. With joy draw the water out of the wells of salvation." After the blessing of the waters it is customary to fill containers to take some holy water home with you.

Birthdays:

- January 21 - Christina Haines
- January 22 - Raymond Vito

Upcoming Events:

- Sun, Jan. 19 - Sisterhood mtg. after coffee hour
- Tue, Jan. 21 - 7:00 pm Executive Board Mtg
- Sun. Jan. 26 - Annual Parish meeting

Sun, Jan. 26 -Annual Parish Mtg. following coffee hour. The names of nominees for board positions and agenda items to be discussed must be submitted, in writing, to the executive board by January 19.

Notices:

House Blessings

Traditionally, at the feast of the Lord's Epiphany (Baptism) on January 19th, the Great Blessing of the waters takes place and then is used to sanctify the homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our house of any evil influence and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we are renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time. Please contact Father Nicholas at 484-786-8009 to schedule your Home Blessing.

Prayer Corner:
For the Health of: Carol Bentley, Olga Ward, Linda Gindin, Nancy, Toby Seip, Erin Bove, Richard Ziegler, Sandy Knisley, & Karen

Anniversaries:

None this month.

Notices:

Sisterhood Dues in January

St. Anastasia Sisterhood is collecting \$10 annual dues for 2020. To join or renew your membership see Rose Dmytryk.

2020 Orthodox Calendars

The 2020 Orthodox calendars are available for church members at the book store, courtesy of the Wentz Funeral Home.

Coffee Hour Hosts

We need families to host our Coffee Hour

Foods for Sale

- Pierogis - potato/cheese \$6 / box
- Pierogis - Sweet potato \$8 / box
- Pierogis - Sauerkraut or mushroom \$8 / box
- Halushki - noodles & cabbage \$7 / quart
- Rolls - Pumpkin, Apple, Apricot \$13 / roll
- Smoked Kielbasa \$7 / ring
- Borscht soup \$7 / quart

January Charity

Good Works

A Christian nonprofit organization dedicated to repairing homes and restoring hope for low-income homeowners in Chester County