

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 6, 2013 — Theophany

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- WORSHIP AND DOCTRINE:

In the Tradition of the Eastern Orthodox Church, doctrine and worship are inseparable. Worship is, in a certain sense, doctrinal testimony, reference to the events of Revelation. Thus, “dogmas are not abstract ideas in and for themselves but revealed and saving truths and realities intended to bring mankind into communion with God.” One could say without hesitation that, according to Orthodox understanding, the fullness of theological thought is found in the worship of the Church. This is why the term Orthodoxy is understood by many not as “right opinion,” but as “right doxology,” [that is,] “right worship.”

—Archimandrite Zacharias, *Ecclesial Being*, pg. 88.

- HUMANITARIAN WORK:

Please support one of our own young parishioners in his efforts to serve the needy. This spring break, James Carr will be traveling to a rural part of the Dominican Republic to work with a small non-profit called Una Vida. Una Vida was started by a high school teacher in Petaluma who formerly was a volunteer in the United States Peace Corps in the very town that they will be traveling to. The trip is a full immersion service-learning trip, meaning they will work on projects—health, housing, education, etc.—while soaking up the lessons of cross-cultural exchange. They will live and eat and laugh with Dominican families, and travel to rural mountain villages and markets. In preparation for the trip, James not only is reading up on the DR, but raising funds to help cover the cost of his trip. James is asking family, church family, and friends to chip in to help get him there! Make your checks out to **Una Vida**, place **James Carr** in the memo line. Barbra, the CFO for Una Vida, will send you a receipt. It's tax deductible! He needs about \$2700 plus personal expenses. For more information check out [www.una-vida.org](http://www.una-vida.org) and go to [www.madresjewelry.org](http://www.madresjewelry.org) to see the wonderful work this organization is doing. — *Fr. Lawrence*

- IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL TALK IN SF:

His Eminence, Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), author of *The Orthodox Church* and *The Orthodox Way* and countless articles and essays on the spiritual life, will be speaking in San Francisco on February 16 and 17. For more information on how to register for his talks, see the following link: [www.sforthodoxinstitute.org/conferences/102-supplementary/194-feb2013-symposium-sf](http://www.sforthodoxinstitute.org/conferences/102-supplementary/194-feb2013-symposium-sf)

- TROPARION OF THEOPHANY, Tone One:

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the truthfulness of His Word. O Christ, our God, Who hast revealed Thyself, and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

- KONTAKION OF THEOPHANY, Tone Four:

On this day Thou hast appeared unto the whole world, and Thy light, O Sovereign Lord, is signed on us who sing Thy praise: and chant with knowledge: Thou hast now come, Thou hast appeared, O Thou Light Unapproachable.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, Jan. 5: 5 PM, Vigil for Theophany
- Sunday, Jan. 6: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Water, Agape Meal in Hall
- Monday, Jan. 7: 9:30 AM, Nativity (Old Calendar) at Kazan Skete
- Tuesday, Jan. 8: 6 PM, 40<sup>th</sup> Day Pankhida for Konstantine Sakovich
- Wed., Jan. 9: 6 PM, Vespers
- Thurs., Jan. 10: Noon, Senior Lunch Fellowship  
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting
- Sat., Jan. 12: 3:30 PM, Catechism  
5 PM Great Vespers, Confessions

- BLESSING OF WATER:

January 6 is the Feast of Enlightenment, called Theophany and Epiphany as well. The Gospels tell us that the Lord Jesus Christ came to the Jordan

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River, asked John the Forerunner to baptize Him. This was a request that St. John did not want to fulfill. Why? Because baptism is the washing away of sin and restoration to God. How could John baptize the Messiah who had no sin? One mightier than he—God’s anointed, the long-awaited herald of the coming of God’s Kingship over the entire world—He would come to baptize with “fire” meaning, the Holy Spirit. Yet, Jesus insisted in order to identify Himself completely with us, who are sinners. And in His baptism, we are illumined by the light of the Holy Trinity, because God is made manifest (*Theophany*): Jesus was baptized, proclaimed by the Father’s voice as His well-beloved Son, and the Spirit was seen upon Him, revealing Him to be the anointed, the Messiah, the Christ. So, on Theophany we share in the mystery of that event by blessing water at the end of the Divine Liturgy, remembering that God came to sanctify His creation. Remember to bring a suitable container to take Holy Water home.

• HOUSE BLESSINGS:

Please email or call Fr. John or me to schedule a house blessing. I will be blessing homes on the following days next week, in addition to **any other days during subsequent weeks that you may want to schedule with me:**

- Sunday, Jan. 6: all booked up
- Monday, Jan. 7: I am available from 2–5 PM
- Tuesday, Jan. 8: available from 1–5 PM
- Wednesday, Jan. 9: available from 3–7:30 PM
- Thursday, Jan. 10: morning booked, available after Senior Lunch

• HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HOUSE BLESSING:

- 1) Have a copy of the *Troparion of Theophany* so that you can sing with the priest. The words are included in this Announcement Sheet, above.
- 2) The entire family should be present.
- 3) Have the following items at your Icon Corner or on a table: icon, oil lamp or a candle, small bowl (cereal size) for the Holy Water. I will bring Holy Water with me if you do not have any; list of names of your family, living and departed, clearly marked.
- 4) Turn off radios, video games and other electronics.
- 5) Teach your children the proper way to receive the priest’s blessing.

• A JOYOUS SAINT SERAPHIM DAY:

On Wednesday morning the area clergy, monastics, visitors and Parish faithful came together to greet Archbishop Benjamin and celebrate the Feast of the Repose of Saint Seraphim. I am very grateful for our servers, the deacons, priests, the Choir Director Nicolas and the singers, those who decorated, and all those that came to pray and participate in the Parish saint day. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence blessed the large new icon of the Protection of the Theotokos, which will be mounted above the Hall porch door. Don’t worry, there are plans for a large icon to be painted and mounted in a wooden “kiot” inside the Hall in a prominent place. We also offer our thanks to God for the wonderful festal meal that was prepared by Serge Anderson and crew, and for those who stayed to clean. We also thank those that gave funds “into the hat” that Fr. Michael set down at the head table. — *Fr. Lawrence*

• THANKS:

The Parish Council wishes to express its gratitude to those who responded so generously to the Nativity Appeal. We will let you know the total income from the appeal as soon as the December and January financial statements are completed.

• SENIOR PIZZA PARTY:

All the Parish Seniors are cordially invited to a casual “Pizza Party” on Thursday, January 10th, at Noon. We will have a variety of pizzas, beer, wine, as well as coffee and a light dessert. Come gather around the table for a friendly time for all. See you there!

• TALK ON ST. GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN:

Vincent Rossi will present a talk on the great 4th century Father of the Church, St. Gregory the Theologian, on Thursday, January 24 at 6:45 PM, after Vespers.

• BELL RINGERS:

Bell ringers, current and future, are asked to attend a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, January 20, after the Agape Meal. It’s time we started a “guild” of ringers, not just to provide bell ringing before, during and after Divine Services, but to train those who would like to learn how to ring. Besides those who are already ringing, I would encourage anyone with any interest at all to come to the January 20 gathering. — *Father Lawrence*