

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 6, 2019

- HOLY WATER: of THEOPHANY:

The practice of blessing water on the day of Christ's Baptism was already existent in the 3rd century. St. John Chrysostom calls this water "*agiasma*" — a holy thing. It has been known from ancient times that the Holy Water of the Theophany does not go bad. This holy water is used to sprinkle and bless icons, liturgical articles, priestly vestments and crosses. It is also used to bless houses, food, automobiles and other articles. When received with faith, it has the power to cure both physical and spiritual infirmities. Although holy water cannot replace Holy Communion, it can be taken instead of Communion by one who is, for one reason or another, deprived of the consolation of the Sacrament. During times of despondency, confusion and spiritual turmoil it offers tranquility and relief. For this reason Christians keep this blessed water in a special place in their homes and partake of it at any time. (The feast day of *Theophany* is also called *Epiphany*. Both terms indicate that God has revealed Himself to the world in Jesus the God & Man, and the Messiah, who teaches us to worship the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit).

- TO THE FRONT:

Community studies show that when a church service appears to be full, visitors tend not to return because "there is no room." The simplest way our cathedral parish can avoid making this impression is for everyone to move forward when standing in the nave, so that the open space is in the *back* not the front. People often fear that being in the front means "everyone is looking at me" or "how am I going to make a speedy exit?" Closer to the Altar is the best place to be undistracted. —*borrowed*

- NOTICES FROM CHURCH BULLETINS:

Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help...
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs...At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell." Come early and listen to our choir practice...Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones...
The Associate Pastor unveiled the church's new financial campaign last Sunday: "I upped my pledge—Up yours..."
Pot-luck supper next Sunday evening—Prayer and medication to follow.

- 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 bore 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 hast 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, Vespers and Matins for the Feast of Theophany
- Sunday, Jan. 6: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of Water, blessing of buildings
Noon, Agape Meal, House blessings to follow
- Wednesday, Jan. 9: 5 PM, Redwood Empire Food Bank
6 PM, Vespers
- Friday, Jan. 11: 6:30 PM, Arrival of Abbot Sergius with the Icon of St. Anne, Akathist Service

- HOUSE BLESSINGS:

The *Master List* of house blessings is in the Narthex. Please check to see if your name appears on it because one of the priests is planning to show up at your home. If your name does NOT appear on the *Master List* please call either Fr. Lawrence or Fr. Nicholas to schedule a blessing.

- FLORAL DECORATIONS TEAM MEETING:

Denise Pellizzer is re-organizing the church floral-decoration team. A short meeting will be held for those interested in working together to beautify the Church, primarily for the Great Feast Days, and of course Holy Week and Pascha. The meeting will take place in the Church at 12:45 PM, Sunday, January 13.

- PIROSHKI ORDERS:

Piroshki prep will take place Jan. 16–19. Get your order placed now. Order forms are at the candle desk.

- ANNUAL MEETING:

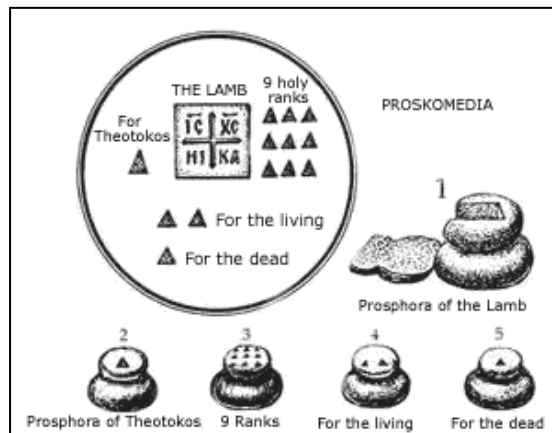
The parish will hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2019, in accordance with the Parish By-laws. The meeting will begin after the Divine Liturgy at 12:30 PM.

- PROSPHORA:

Your Commemoration Books await renewal for the new year at the Candle Desk. These books are given to the priests prior to the Divine Liturgy so they can pray for those whose names you have listed. The

Prayer of Proskomedie is extremely powerful and beneficial, as affirmed by Church tradition. *Proskomedie* is the “service of preparation” of the bread and wine before the Liturgy. The bread that will become the Holy Eucharist is brought to the Altar on a tray, the *Diskos*. In the

center is the bread—the Lamb—which will be changed by the Holy Spirit to the Body of Christ from which we commune. To the right is the particle in honor of the Virgin taken from another loaf; and to the left, particles for the nine ranks of saints from another loaf (Prophets, Apostles, Bishops, Martyrs, Monastics, Unmercenary Healers, St. Seraphim and others and St. John Chrysostom. Below the Lamb are



particles of bread for the living and the departed, from two other loaves —included here are the Metropolitan, the Diocesan Bishop, and particles for all those names submitted by you. The visual aid above—that of the *Diskos* and the particles, is an image of the Church, the Body of Christ: here is Christ and His Holy Mother on His right hand, the Saints, and the faithful, you and me and our spiritual family in Christ. After Holy Communion, all the particles are placed in the Chalice, immersed in the Precious Blood of Christ. Because this is about Holy Communion and the Body of the Church, your lists of names should be divided between those who are Orthodox (in this life now, or departed this life) and those who are not. This is not to ignore the non-Orthodox, but to make clear that this is about Communion and the Church, which is the visible Body of Christ—your spiritual family. The priests absolutely do pray for everyone listed. You should each have a duplicate book of names for your own use, and pray for those names listed in the Proskophora booklet before coming to Church for the Divine Liturgy. —Fr Lawrence

- YOUTH ACTIVITY PLANNING:

Some of our parish youth (age 11–18) got together last Saturday evening to discuss their place in the parish. Topics included: possible movie nights, off-campus events and finding ways and places to be together on Sunday during the Agape Meal: Adults have the Hall, younger children have the play structure, but the middle youth don't yet have a place—not until another bay in the storage building can be changed over to their classroom/hangout space. Overall the focus is on creating Orthodox soul-strengthening, faith-building and friendship-bonding activities, camp-outs, and retreats for our parish teens and hopefully with teens of area parishes. Our thanks to Vicky Basch, John Gilluly and Garret Hamner, who organized the get together.

- THANK YOU:

We offer our thanks to God for the wonderful Feast Day celebration, Jan. 2: the singing, serving, decorating and the festal meal. Thanks to all, who labored for the glory of God.

- WALK FOR LIFE IN SF:

The **2019 Walk for Life** will take place on January 26 in San Francisco (12:30 PM). We hope to provide transportation for those who are interested in going. See Fr. Lawrence or Deacon John for information.