

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

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HolyApostlesLansing.org

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JANUARY 8, 2017

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 4. Afterfeast of the Theophany. Sunday after Theophany. Ven. George the Chozebite, Abbot (6th c.). Ven. Domnica of Constantinople (474). St. Emilian the Confessor, Bishop of Cyzicus (9th c.). Ven. Gregory, Wonderworker of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1093). Ven. Gregory the Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Hieromartyr Isidore and 72 others at Yuriev (Estonia—1472). St. Paisius of Uglich (1504). Hieromartyr Carterius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (304). Martyrs Theophilus the Deacon, and Helladius, in Libya (4th c.). Martyrs Julian and his wife, Basilissa, and with them Marcionilla, her son Celsus, Anthony, Anastasius, 7 children and 20 soldiers, at Antinoë in Egypt (313). Ven. Elias the Hermit, of Egypt (4th c.). Martyr Abo the Perfumer, of Tiflis (Georgia—790).

EPISTLE: EPHESIANS 4.7-13: Faithful are called to many ministries, and equipped by Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4.12-17: Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

COFFEE HOUR: THIS WEEK: Bernice and Eileen **NEXT WEEK:** Available

HOUSE BLESSINGS: It is that joyous time of year when we schedule house blessings - to welcome Christ into our homes as we begin a new year, in celebration of his revelation in the River Jordan. To have your house blessed, please see Fr James to schedule an appointment. It would be wonderful if we could every house in the parish blessed in the next few weeks. For those who do not make an appointment, Fr James will be calling to schedule a time.

READERS LIST: To encourage more of the faithful of the parish to read during the divine services, a sign-up sheet is now available at the information table on which anyone can select a time to read. All skill levels are welcome.

LAKE BLESSING: The annual Theophany Lake Blessing has been scheduled for 2 PM, January 14. All are strongly encouraged to attend and to invite a few friends.

COMMEMORATIONS: It is customary, upon entering a Church for the Divine Liturgy, to bring a commemoration booklet or fill out a prayer slip. This is brought into the altar for those names to be remembered during the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to send names into the altar at every Liturgy. In return, you will receive a small loaf of bread out of which particles are taken and, ultimately, placed into the chalice with the Body and Blood of Christ.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next series of Adult Ed classes is chugging along! The next class has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 10. We will be reading and examining chapter 7 of Fr Alexander Schmemmann's book *For the Life of the World*.

PARISH LIBRARY: If you have any theological, spiritual or religious books that would be appropriate for the Parish Library, donations would be most welcome. There are some holes on the bookshelves that need to be filled in. Please see Fr James to help round out the collection.

POINSETTIAS: If you donated toward the purchase of the poinsettias, please feel free to take one of the plants home today after the Divine Liturgy. After the are claimed, any one is free to take one home for themselves or to share with a friend or a neighbor.

CALENDARS: The 2017 Liturgical Wall Calendars have arrived and are available to be taken home. With this calendar, you will have the daily readings for each day of the year, as well as the differing regulations for fasting. Additionally, the gorgeous icons will adorn one or several of the rooms in your homes.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:				
Apr Timothy H	Nathan	Lyudmila	Vincent	Martha
Apr Herman S	Leah	Nickolay	Photini	Stanley & Helen,
Apr Sergius K	Helen	Anetta	<u>Children:</u> Anthony, Mia,	Taissia
Apr Thomas E	Lindsey	Zachary	Isabel, Bear and Victoria	Steluta
Apr Stephen M	Elizabeth	Iconographer Helena	<u>Seminarians:</u> Rdr Robert	Theophan
Apr John R	Mary	Natasha, Lena, Vera, &	and Ivan	Lynda
Apr Patrick C	Joe A	Sergei	BIRTHDAYS: None.	Florence
Mother Raphaela	Daniel	Caleb	ANNIVS: None.	James
Mother Christophora	Andrew & family	Joshua	NAMESDAYS: None.	James R
Mat Joanna B	Carol	Cleopatra	REPOSED:	Vasily
Mat Katya	Wilhemina	Brian & Ally	Apr John U	Modecai
Mat Mary G	Elizabeth	Steve, Marisa & Magdalena	Priest Matthew	Alexandr
Joshua	David	Danielle	Priest John	Ron
Brittany	Shirley	Larry, Mark & Katie	Apr Alexander	John
Gretchen	Larry	Ann	Dn Mark	Eleanor
Peter	Christina	Dorothy	Rdr Gregory	Harold
Marriane	Jim & Kim	Ronald	Daniel	Alfred
Terrence	Rachel	Sheryl & Lacey	Ada	NEWLY REPOSED: Louise
Helen	Constantine & Maria	Alexander, Angela & Anton	Lillian	ANNIVERSARIES: None.
Judy	Gaetan	Peter	Joseph	
Mary & Susan	Christine	Steven & Stephanie	Marie	
John & Carmine	Samuel	Gregory & Ann	Joseph	
	Lisa	Raymond	Laura	

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$520. Weekly Budget: \$1150.
MTD: \$520. Monthly Budget: +\$4600. December: +\$1049. Building: \$0.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy, Social Hour and parish Council Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 9: Rector's Sabbath

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10: 8:30 Morning Prayers

7 PM Know Your Faith at Cup O'Jo Café in the Ithaca Mall

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11: 8:30 Daily Matins

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12: 8:30 Morning Prayers

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13: 9 AM Divine Liturgy for the Feast

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14: 6 PM Great Vespers

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that you would renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only Merciful and loving Lord Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: We pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

PERSONAL USE OF HOLY WATER

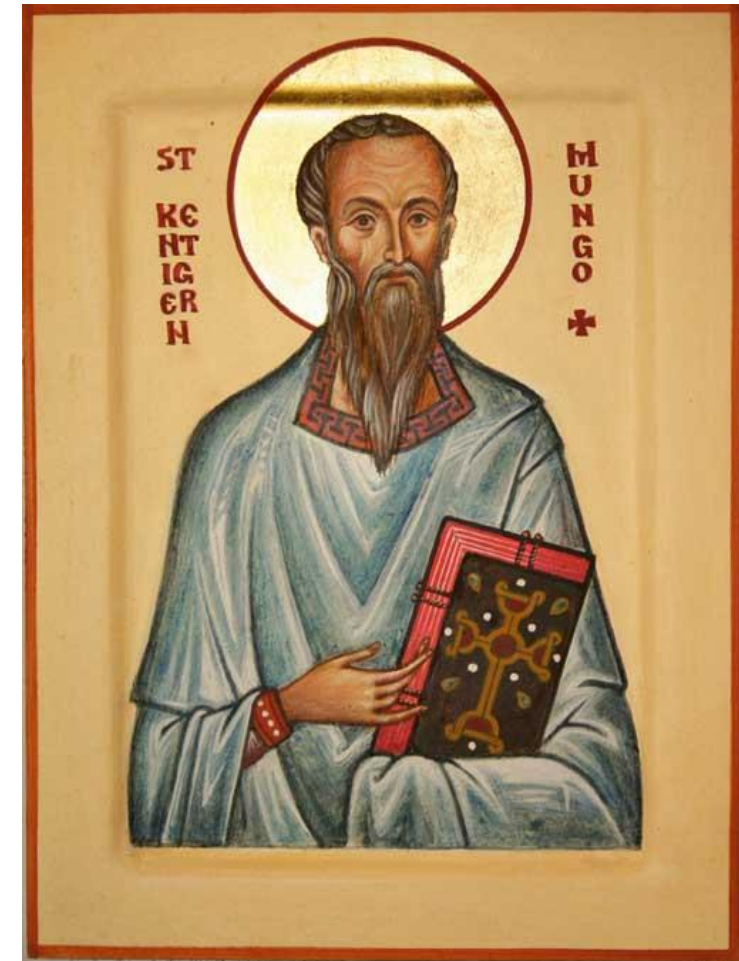
According to Orthodox doctrine, holy water has the power to sanctify and heal. Have each family member drink a small amount of the holy water from Epiphany or the home blessing. Keep the unused holy water in your home icon corner for future use: times of adversity, before starting a new venture or trip, to give thanks, or when someone is ill. You may drink it or anoint yourself when you feel spiritually afflicted. To rid the house of evil spirits, it should be sprinkled in the four corners of each room, so no one will step on it. In rural areas, and where there is need, the holy water is sprinkled in the fields and on the animals. If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact Fr James.

ON BEING AN APOSTLE

The gift of apostleship is bestowed upon each member of the Church on the day of his Baptism and Chrismation. If we call our Church "apostolic" it is because She is sent, "apostle" meaning "sent by God." It is because She is sent in Her totality, and this means in all Her members, into the world to preach the Gospel of Christ, to manifest His presence, to fulfill the salvation which He accomplished. In this sense, we all are apostolic and apostles. We all carry the responsibility for the apostolicity of the Church. -Fr Alexander Schmemmann

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

Lansing, New York



ST KENTIGERN, FIRST BISHOP OF GLASGOW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2016
AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH

Troparion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord
learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the Apostles:
"Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen, //
granting the world great mercy!"

Troparion of the Feast Tone 1

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,
the worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to You,
calling You His Beloved Son;
and the Spirit in the form of a dove
confirmed the truthfulness of His word.
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself, //
and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

Kontakion Tone 4 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell,
and as Master, //
He has risen on the third day!

Kontakion of the Feast Tone 4

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord,
and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us.
Knowing You, we sing Your praises:
"You have come and revealed Yourself, //
O unapproachable Light."

Prokeimenon Tone 1 (Sunday after Theophany)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You! (Ps 32/33:22)
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Alleluia Verses Tone 5 (Sunday after Theophany)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation. (Ps 88/89:1)

v: For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens." (Ps 88/89:2)

Hymn to the Theotokos

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,
more honorable than the heavenly hosts!
No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;
even Angels are overcome with awe praising you.
But since you are good, accept our faith;
for you know our love inspired by God!
You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men. (Titus 2:11)
Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Preparing for a House Blessing

It is a joy to bless your home and/or business. To have your home or business blessed in an orderly manner, please prepare with the following in mind:

At a table covered in a white cloth, or icon corner (preferably facing east, if possible), have:

- a bowl filled with Holy Water (if you have none, Father will bring extra),
- an icon of the feast, or of Christ, or of the Theotokos,
- a candle on a candle stand,
- a prayer slip listing the names of those whom you would like to have remembered in prayer, with those fallen asleep listed in on one side and those living in the household on the other side.

All TVs, radios, and other sources of sound need to be turned off. Open the doors to all rooms. If done in the evening, have the lights on in each room. Also, please secure pets as necessary. If possible, please have someone ready to lead the priest through the home/business. Invite some friends!

THE RESTORATION OF CREATION

What is the meaning of the blessing of waters? Is it the transformation of something that is profane into something that is now sacred, "mere" water transformed into "holy" water? If it were so, then, in the words of Alexander Schmemmann, "the act of blessing reveals nothing about water, and thus about matter or the world, but on the contrary makes them irrelevant to the new function of water as 'holy water.'" The prayer at the blessing of water, both in the Baptismal service and at Epiphany, "may mean the revelation of the true 'nature' and 'destiny' of water, and thus of the world By being restored through the blessing to its proper function" the things of the world become again a means of communion with God (For the Life of the World, p. 131f.). Christ in His baptism purified the nature of the waters. He came to redeem not only human beings but, through them, the entire material created world. The waters become the means of healing and grace. But not only waters-any other material thing may be a bearer of the Spirit. No matter can be excluded or considered trivial, "for the redemptive and transforming grace of the Saviour extends to all things...." (The Festal Menaion, p. 59).

The feast of Epiphany thus speaks of the restoration of the pure human image, as well as of all material nature. The true nature of water has its destiny in the salvation of man and the world. Creation "will be set free from its bondage" and will obtain "the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:20). All things are to be set aright. They are to be permeated by the light, love, grace, and glory of God. In the feast, the Church reminds its members of the historical character of the Incarnation and the goal of Christian existence: to "become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

ST. NIKOLAI VELIMIROVICH ON THE HOLY THEOPHANY

When our Lord reached thirty years from His physical birth, He began His teaching and salvific work. He Himself signified this "beginning of the beginning" by His baptism in the Jordan river.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem says, "The beginning of the world - water; the beginning of the Good News - Jordan." At the time of the baptism of the Lord in water, that mystery was declared to the world: that mystery which was prophesied in the Old Testament; the mystery about which in ancient Egypt and India was only fabled; i.e., the mystery of the Divine Holy Trinity.

The Father was revealed to the sense of hearing; the Spirit was revealed to the sense of sight, and in addition to these, the Son was revealed to the sense of touch. The Father uttered His witness about the Son, the Son was baptized in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovered above the water. When John the Baptist witnessed and said about Christ, "Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29), and when John immersed and baptized the Lord in the Jordan, the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation was shown. That is to say: The Lord took upon Himself the sins of mankind and died under them [immersion] and became alive again [the coming out of the water]; and we must die as the old sinful man and become alive again as cleansed, renewed and regenerated. This is the Savior and this is the path of salvation.

The Feast of the Epiphany [Theophany in Greek] is also called the Feast of Illumination. For us, the event in the Jordan river illuminates, by manifesting to us God as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. That is one way. And, the second: everyone of us through baptism in water is illumined by this, that we become adopted by the Father of Lights through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

THEOPHANY: THE FEAST OF THE MANIFESTATION OF GOD

The blessing of the waters, first in the church, in a large vessel, and the second time outside the church at the bank of a river or stream, or at the shore of a lake or ocean, is the most characteristic feature of the celebration of Theophany. The stikhera or verses of the blessing announce: "Today, the nature of the waters is sanctified"; the prokeimenon proclaims: "The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?" (Ps. 26:1). After the gospel (Mark 1:9-11), follow these petitions among others: that "this water ... may be sanctified by the might and operation and descent of the Holy Spirit," that "we may be enlightened by the light of knowledge and godliness through the descent of the Holy Spirit," that this water "may bestow cleansing of soul and body upon all who draw it with faith and partake of it." The priest prays that Christ, who is the source of life, Light of Light, who accepted to be baptised in the Jordan by the hand of a servant, who has sanctified the nature of the waters, may "lead us to a new birth through water and the Spirit, and restore us again to our original freedom

.... We entreat thee, O Master who lovest mankind: sprinkle upon us, thine unworthy servants, ...cleansing water, the gift of Thy compassion."

In another prayer, the consequences of the event are enumerated:

"Today the waters of the Jordan are transformed into healing by the coming of the Lord."

"Today Paradise has been opened to men and the Sun of Righteousness shines down upon us."

Today we have been delivered from darkness and illuminated with the light of the knowledge of God."

"Today the whole creation shines with light from on high."

"Today earth and seas are the joy of the world, and the world is filled with gladness."

And finally the priest, making the sign of the cross over the water three times, exclaims: "Therefore, O King who lovest mankind, do thou thyself be present now as then through the descent of Thy Holy Spirit, and sanctify this water ... Make it a source of incorruption, a gift of sanctification, a remission of sins, a protection against disease, a destruction to demons, inaccessible to the adverse powers and filled with angelic strength...." The sign of the cross is made over the water with the cross, and then the priest plunges it into the water and raises it three times, while the troparion of the feast is sung.

HYMN OF PRAISE TO THE HOLY TRINITY

O, Holy Lord, holy in creating,

All that You create by Your Word, by Your Spirit You consecrate.

O, Mighty Lord, mighty in suffering,

For the world You walk to Your death; for the world, You resurrect.

Immortal Lord, in voice, we praise You;

Father, Son, Holy Spirit - God, have mercy on us!

The Father, Who appeared over Jordan as a Voice,

The Spirit, Who as a White Dove hovered,

The Son, Who by the Prophet John was baptized,

Three rays of light, one light shown,

The Trinity manifested, we praise You in voice:

Father, Son, Holy Spirit - God, have mercy on us!