

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate
Very Rev. Father Joseph Kimmett, Pastor
Very Rev. Father Nifon Abraham, Pastor Emeritus



6 JANUARY
2008

FEAST OF
THEOPHANY

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS AND FRIENDS.
IT IS A BLESSING TO HAVE YOU WITH US AT SAINT GEORGE .
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR PARISH,
OR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH, PLEASE SEE THE PRIEST.

ONLY THOSE ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS WHO ARE REPENTANT OF THEIR
SINS AND HAVE PREPARED THEMSELVES THROUGH FASTING ARE INVITED
TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO VENERATE
THE CROSS AND SHARE HOLY BREAD FOLLOWING THE LITURGY.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT GEORGE

Today - *Feast Day Brunch, sponsored by the Ladies of Saint George*
Thursday - *Matins, 9:00 am*
Saturday - *Great Vespers, 5:00 pm*
Next Sunday - *Matins & Divine Liturgy, 9:00 / 10:00 am*
Teens' meeting at coffee hour
Church School, 1:00 pm

There is fasting on Wednesday and Friday this week.

HOLY BREAD

The gifts are offered today by members of the Theophany School family.

COFFEE HOUR

Please stop downstairs, the Ladies of Saint George are hosting their annual Theophany Brunch; proceeds will be used to help support Joanna, their *child* in Lebanon.

HOME BLESSINGS

It is tradition in the Orthodox Church that in the days following Theophany, our homes are blessed with the *Jordan water* from this morning's liturgy. If you would like Father Joseph to visit your home, please see him today to make arrangements.

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EDUCATION MONTH

NAC Teen SOYO is working towards raising \$250,000 for a scholarship fund to benefit local parish youth workers to further their education in **Youth Ministry** through the Saint Stephen's Youth Ministry Concentration. Teens around the country have already raised \$134,000 towards this goal through the efforts of the faithful. Your help towards this worthy goal are greatly appreciated.

JANUARY IS...

TEEN SOYO EDUCATION MONTH

Join Teen SOYO in this quest to provide scholarships to your parish youth workers to participate in the Antiochian House of Studies Youth Ministry Education Program, so that they may better serve the youth of your parish.



A commitment
to our parish
youth workers...

...is indeed a
commitment to
our youth.

This month, teens around the archdiocese will also be sponsoring and participating in **Sacred Gift of Life: Protecting the Life of the Unborn**. With the blessing of Metropolitan PHILIP, Sunday the 20th has been designated the day for educating and making the Orthodox faithful aware of this cause.

ADULT EDUCATION IN THE PARISH

As Christian education is vital to all members of our communities, a new series is being put together, concentrating on those **contemporary [moral] issues** which are of interest to you. Classes here will begin next month. If there is a particular topic you would like to discuss, please let Father Joseph know.

EDUCATION: HOME BIBLE STUDY

Dynamis, the Bible study which arrives in your email box each day has been publishing for 12 full years: "We are now prompted to collect the substance of our work into a complete set of meditations on every

passage (and more) of Holy Scripture that the Church appoints for use in her services - Gospels, Epistles, and Old Testament Lessons. To do this as simply as possible, in the coming months, we are going to provide you with more meditations month by month than are officially appointed by the Church's Lectionary. Since the focus in 2008 is on the Four Gospels, it means that you will receive meditations on all the Gospel passages that would be assigned for the days following Pentecost, or during the preparation for Pascha, or following after Pascha. Then, in addition, we will add in all the Gospels for any fixed Feasts of the Master, of the Theotokos, and of the most important Saints during each month. In January that means 43 meditations instead of 31."

To enroll in this terrific program send email an to: orthodoxdynamis-subscribe@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP

Our parish has wrapped up the 2008 Stewardship campaign. During the past six weeks, pledges have been received from those committed to the work of our parish. Though some have likely forgotten to return their card, the average gift of those making a pledge this year has gone up significantly. In past years the median was about \$500; as of Friday, that same gift is now over **\$550**. Every member was asked to consider just a dollar or two more each week and many of you responded generously. Your dedication is appreciated. At the time this bulletin was printed **89 members** have made stewardship commitments, totaling **\$49,054**. \$8725 has been **paid in advance** which is very much appreciated, this helps with budgeting and also means more income from interest. A breakdown of pledges and those making gifts will be printed next week. If you wish to be a pledging member of our church and have not sent in your card, there are some extras available.

Discourse On the Day of the Baptism of Christ

Saint John Chrysostom,
Archbishop of Constantinople

We shall now say something about the present feast. Many celebrate the feasts and know their designations, but the cause for which they were established they know not. Thus concerning this, that the present feast is called Theophany -- everyone knows; but what this is -- Theophany, and whether it be one thing or another, they know not. And this is shameful -- every year to celebrate the feastday and not know its reason. First of all therefore, it is necessary to say that there is not one Theophany, but two: the one actual, which already has occurred, and the second in future, which will happen with glory at the end of the world. About this one and about the other you will hear today from Paul, who in conversing with Titus, speaks thus about the present: "The grace of God hath revealed itself, having saved all mankind, decreeing, that we reject iniquity and worldly desires, and dwell in the present age in prudence and in righteousness and piety" -- and about the future: "awaiting the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ" (*Tit 2:11-13*). And a prophet speaks thus about this latter: "the sun shalt turn to darkness, and the moon to blood at first, then shalt come the great and illuminating Day of the Lord" (*Joel 2:31*). Why is not that day, on which the Lord was born, considered Theophany -- but rather this day on which He was baptised? This present day it is, on which He was baptised and sanctified the nature of water. Because on this day all, having obtained the waters, do carry it home and keep it all year, since today the waters are sanctified; and an obvious phenomenon occurs: these waters in their essence do not spoil with the passage of time, but obtained today, for one whole year and often for two or three years, they remain unharmed and fresh, and afterwards for a long time do not stop being water, just as that obtained from the fountains.

Why then is this day called Theophany? Because Christ made Himself known to all -- not when He was born -- but when He was baptised.

Until this time He was not known to the people.

TOTAL DEPOSITS <small>DECEMBER 23-29</small>	PLEDGES	LONG-RANGE <small>(MEMORIALS & DONATIONS)</small>	TRAYS	CHRISTMAS DONATIONS	NICHOLAS TREE OUTREACH
\$5269.00	\$3795.00-	\$-	\$389.00	\$2635.00	\$85.00



PRAYERS OF OBLATION AND DONATIONS

Sue Toli
 Sandy, Linda & Bob Thomas in memory of Chris Curran
 George & Lovee Thomas and family; Sandy, Linda & Bob Thomas . . . in memory of Thomas Russell
 Sarah Kelley for the health of Hayes Kelley and Margaret Saba

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Pray for the good health of the servants of God: Priest Robert, Deacon Elias, Khouriyee Joanne, Alice, Hayes, Katrina, Elsa, John, Jeanne, Richard, Gregory, Albert, Dimitri, James, Frederick, Anne, Grace, Renee, Robert, Nicole, Mary, Pauline, Helen, Ioana, Nicolae, Kathleen, John, Lillie, Jennifer, Edward, Carrie, Sam, Camille, Michael, Angela, Mikayla, Jeanne, Christopher, Sonia, Nancy, Kenneth, Joy, Violet, Claudia, Thomas, Sarah, Nicholas, Charles, Catherine, Joyce, Janice, Barbara, Beverly, John, Katherine, Mary, Beverly, Najlae, Irene, Edmond, Helen, Stanley, George, Frances, Marlene, Felecia, Catherine, Lana, Gail, Margaret, Brian, Nicole, Marion, Donna, Linda, Edmond, Emaline, Carrie, Nicholas, George, Lovee, Elizabeth, Sarah, Charles, Bryan, Jenine, Josephine, George, Sandy, Edward, Michael, Madeline, Rosemary, Freda, John, Margaret, Sarah, Nima, Dean, David, Sterling, William, Mary.

Pray for the repose of Thomas Russell, brother of Nancy Deeb.

Mabrouk Our seminarian from a few years back, Camille Baba, became engaged to be married this past New Year's Eve, to Ramia Ibrahim from Ottawa. Camille's address is 2801 N Rock Rd., #2104, Wichita, KS 67226

THE PARISH COUNCIL - YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Leeann Plouffe - Chairwoman
 Barbara Campbell, Paul Eysie, Camille Florio (Secretary), Andrew Howard (Vice Chairman),
 Marlene Lupaczzyk, Marwan Samman (Treasurer), Linda Thomas and Sharon Weiskerger

CHURCH LEADERS

Katie Birtwell - Ladies of Saint George President	Rich Plouffe - Church School Superintendent
Paul Eysie - Parish Chanter	David Franciosi - Choir Director
Michele Markatos - Teen Leader	Teen President - Jenna Weiskerger
Andrew Howard & Marwan Samman - Ushers	Lovee Thomas - Epistle Reader Coordinator
Emily Shay - Bible Bowl team leader	Seminarian - Michael Razook
Sandra Giampa - 2007 Street Festival Chairwoman	Camille Florio - Yardsale Chairwoman

2008 CALENDARS

The producers of the icon calendar we give out each year have promised that it is on the way; hopefully this week.

SUNDAY 6 JANUARY 2008 • FEAST OF THEOPHANY

At the Entrance - Eisodikon

*Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God and hath appeared unto us.
O Son of God who was baptized by John in the Jordan, save us who sing unto thee,
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Troparion of Epiphany (Tone 1)

*When thou O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, worship of the Trinity was made manifest.
For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee calling Thee his Beloved Son; and the Spirit in
the likeness of a dove confirmed the truth of His word. O Christ our God,
who hath appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.*

Kontakion of the Theophany (Tone 4)

*Thou hast appeared today to the world and Thy light, O Lord, has been shown upon us.
With full knowledge we praise Thee; thou has come; Thou art manifested; O unapproachable light.*

EPISTLE & GOSPEL

Prokeimenon and Verse:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

The Reading is from Apostle Paul's Letter to Titus (2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Titus, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

Alleluia

The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (3:13-17)

Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE FEAST

During the [four] Royal Hours at Theophany there is an Old Testament lesson, epistle and Gospel for each. At the Vesperal Liturgy (or Great Vespers when the Feast is on a Sunday or Monday, like this year) there are thirteen Old Testament Readings assigned. In parish practice, only three are typically read:

Genesis 1:1-13

Fourth Book of Kings 2:6-14

Fourth Book of Kings 5:9-14.

In addition, the Epistle from Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 9:19-27) and Gospel from Saint Luke (3:1-18)

At Matins, the Gospel is Saint Mark (1:9-11)

At the Great Blessing of Waters, which takes place immediately following the Liturgy, there are three Old Testament lessons, an epistle and Gospel:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah 55:1-13

Isaiah 12:3-6

Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 10:1-4)

Saint Mark 1:9-11 (also read at Matins at the Sixth Hour)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."
