

# ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Mark Sherman - Priest

Robert Popadic - Starosta

Basil Andruchow - Protodeacon

Philip Grayton - Choir Director

Basil Safchuk - Protodeacon 01/03/10

Stephen Kelsey - Church School

Sunday, Jan 3, 30<sup>th</sup> **SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 5. SUNDAY BEFORE THE**

**THEOPHANY.** Holy Prophet Malachi (ca. 400 B.C.). Martyr Gordius at Caesarea in Cappadocia (4<sup>th</sup> c.). St. Genevieve of Paris (5<sup>th</sup> c.).

Epistle: Gospel:

2 Tim. 4:5-8 (Sun. Before) Mark 1:1-8 (Sun. Before)

Tuesday, Jan 5, **Eve of the Theophany** (Strict Fast Day)

Royal Hours, 6:30 am

Great Vespers with Litya, 7:00 pm

(followed by The Great Blessing of the Waters)

Wednesday, Jan 6, **THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Festal Divine Liturgy, 9 am

(followed by The Great Blessing of the Waters)

Thursday, Jan 7, **St. John the Baptist**

Daily Vespers, 5:30 pm

Saturday, Jan 9

Great Vespers for the Resurrection, 6 pm

Sunday, Jan 10, **31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6. Sunday After the**

**Theophany.** St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (4<sup>th</sup> c.). St. Dometian, Bishop of Melitene (601). St. Theosebia the Deaconess, sister of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa (385). St. Theophan the Recluse, Bishop of Tambov (1894).

Sixth Hour, 9:50 am

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, **10 am**

Epistle: Gospel:

Eph. 4:7-13 (Sun. After) Matt. 4:12-17 (Sun. After)

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## HOUSE BLESSINGS

Each year after Holy Theophany, House Blessings begin. The central sign of God's sanctification of all things through Christ's baptism is the act of blessing the homes of the faithful. According to the Orthodox faith, the home is considered to be a "small church," and the table or prayer space of the home is the "home altar" where each day "daily bread" is received from God with thanksgiving in the name of Christ. Thus, during the Theophany season, the priest, who is the father of the greater "family of God," comes to each of the "small churches" bringing the blessings of God the Father and all the brothers and sisters in Christ.

House Blessings will begin this week and will continue through the beginning of Great Lent. Please sign up at the candle stand to let Fr. Mark know that you would like your house to be blessed.

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## THE TRADITION OF HOLY WATER

When our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, was baptized in the Jordan, what happened? Since God is the same, yesterday, today and forever, there was no transformation that occurred with the Savior Himself. Jesus was not changed, but rather, His entry into the waters of the Jordan changed the very nature of that water. Water that was previously part of the fallen world, became changed – enlivened – "Holy"! Each year, as we return to that place when the baptism occurs, and we participate in that baptism through the prayers of our own Church, we see again that water becomes Holy. We take this Holy Water, blessed by the prayers in our own Church, and sprinkle, anoint, and bless many things. We believe this changed, enlivened, "Holy" water, similarly changes and enlivens the things that it is used with. Therefore, we take Holy Water and bless the Church, ourselves, our homes, and so many other things dear to us.

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## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHURCH

The Poinsettias that have made our Church so beautiful for the holidays are donated *In Memory Of* and *For The Health Of* so many of the loved ones of the Church (see the bulletin board in the Narthex). Poinsettias may be taken today, after the Theophany Liturgy on Wednesday, and after Liturgy next Sunday. Following next Sunday, we will remove the remaining poinsettias from the Church. .

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Jan 17	Sunday	Zacchaeus Sunday Monthly Parish Council Meeting
Feb 2	Tuesday	Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple
Feb 7	Sunday	Meatfare - 1 year Panikhida for +Mary Rabchenuk
Feb 14	Sunday	Forgiveness Sunday - Beginning of Great Lent
Apr 4	Sunday	Holy Pascha - The Resurrection of Our Lord