



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ / Holy Prophet Malachi January 3, 2021

Troparion – Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion – Tone 4

Prepare, O Zebulon, and adorn thyself, O Naphtali! River Jordan, cease flowing, and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked, He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.// Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Kontakion – Tone 5

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man,// and we cry to Thee: “O Lord, save us!”

Kontakion – Tone 4

Endowed with the gift of prophecy, O Malachi, thou didst clearly proclaim the saving coming of Christ to the world.// His brightness has brought light to the whole universe.

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: “Do not be afraid to baptize Me.// For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!

V. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The second day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 3. Today’s hymns invite us to go in spirit to the Jordan River where the Creator comes to be baptized. He is the Light which shines in the darkness (John 1:5), and today He begins to overcome that darkness.

Holy Prophet Malachi

The Holy Prophet Malachi lived 400 years before the Birth of Christ, at the time of the return of the Jews from the Babylonian Captivity. Malachi was the last of the Old Testament prophets, therefore the holy Fathers call him “the seal of the prophets.”

Manifesting himself an image of spiritual goodness and piety, he astounded the nation and was called Malachi, i.e., an angel. His prophetic book is included in the Canon of the Old Testament. In it he upbraids the Jews, foretelling the coming of Jesus Christ and His Forerunner, and also the Last Judgment (Mal 3:1-5; 4:1-6).

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the Prophets: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight.’” John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Service Schedule for the week of January 3 – services will be streamed live

Today – MASKS REQUIRED 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday January 5 – Feast of Theophany – MASKS REQUIRED – 7:00 PM Great Compline with Litya

Wednesday January 6 – Theophany – MASKS REQUIRED – 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Great Blessing of Water

Thursday January 7 – Synaxis of St. John the Baptist – MASKS REQUIRED 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Saturday January 9 – MASKS REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy and 5:00 PM Vespers

Sunday January 10 – MASKS NOT REQUIRED 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

December 20 – 39 adults, 17 youth, \$2,395

December 24 & 25 – 32 adults, 11 youth and 50 adults, 12 youth, \$3,371

Parish Announcements

Masks will be required at all Holy Day services. Masks may be worn during any service, even those indicating No Mask.

Upcoming service schedule (Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM):

Friday January 1 – Masks required

Saturday January 2 – Masks required BAPTISM service only, no Divine Liturgy will be served; Vespers 5:00 PM

Sunday January 3 – Masks required

Tuesday January 5 – Masks required

Wednesday January 6 – Masks required

Thursday January 7 – Masks required

Saturday January 9 – Masks required

Sunday January 10 – Masks not required

Saturday January 16 – Masks not required

Sunday January 17 – Masks required

Saturday January 23 – Masks required

Sunday January 24 – Masks not required

Saturday January 30 – Masks not required

Sunday January 31 – Masks required

There will be a St Vladimir FOCA (formerly Senior R Club) meeting today after Divine Liturgy in Daria Hall. Masks are required.

Church Flowers: If you are interested in donating flowers for a Sunday or Holy Day, please contact Father Volodymyr. Flowers are placed on both sides of the veneration icon. There are vases available to use for cut flowers.

In order to properly social distance, we ask that parishioners fill the front pews as well as all pews in the church before congregating in the back. Individuals should attempt to sit in a pew (one at each end) with another individual in order to free up pews for families. The choir loft is also available for a family. We must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of germs, so please do not attend church services if you have a fever, sniffles, cough, cold, sore throat, loss of smell or taste, etc. If individuals who attended church services are diagnosed with Covid, the church may need to shut down for a period of time. Father Volodymyr live streams Saturday Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy every weekend, so if you are home you may still participate in the services on line. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation!

Father Volodymyr has received the following instructions from the Diocese regarding Theophany:

~ **Distribution of the newly-blessed Holy Water:** After Divine Liturgy on January 6, January 9, and January 10, one person wearing a mask and gloves will ladle the Holy Water into containers brought by the faithful, who will stand in line and maintain social distancing as they approach. Please be patient during this process!

~ **Home Blessings:** In light of the overall continuing increases in COVID cases and COVID deaths both in New York and in New Jersey, home blessings will be postponed until after Pascha and begin on a date after Pascha, which has yet to be determined. This measure will prevent Father Volodymyr from risking unneeded exposure to the Coronavirus, it will alleviate any fears parishioners might have regarding home blessings during the Pandemic, and it will enable the eventual home blessings to become an opportunity for pastoral conversations with the families in our parish.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

In order to prevent the spread of germs, the Communion prosphora and prosphora after Divine Liturgy will be handed out by an Altar server. We ask that you receive the prosphora in your hand and not reach for the prosphora on the tray or bowl.

The church has been set up for appropriate social distance seating. However, if you are feeling ill, please stay home. Also, those age 65 and over are still considered high risk and should make careful decisions about attending services. Father Volodymyr will continue to stream live Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy.

During the pandemic we are grateful that our parishioners have continued to contribute every week so the church can remain operational. Please continue to pray for everyone's health and well-being!

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!