



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ / Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia, and Martyr Theonas January 5, 2020

Troparion – Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous message of thy 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 – Tone 4

The river Jordan was turned back by the mantle of Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up to heaven. The waters were parted in two, and the stream became a dry path. This was truly a type of baptism, by which we pass over the stream of life.// Christ has shone forth in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.

Kontakion – Tone 4

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 – Tone 2

O Christ, in Thy compassion and infinite mercy, Thou art coming as a man to be baptized in the Jordan, in order to take away the many trans

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: “Do not be afraid to baptize me,// for I 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!

Eve of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

The fourth day of the Forefeast of Theophany falls on January 5. If January 5th falls on a weekday, the following order is observed:

Vespers on the evening of the 4th, then Matins. The First Hour is not read after Matins.

On the 5th we read the Royal Hours, followed by Vespers and the Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on Saturday:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vespers on the evening of the 4th, followed by Matins. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Saturday morning.

If the Eve of Theophany falls on a Sunday:

The Royal Hours are read on Friday, but there is no Liturgy. Vigil is served on Saturday evening, and the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom is celebrated on Sunday.

There are thirteen readings at Vespers on the Eve of Theophany, and the entrance is made with the Gospel. There is fasting today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Hieromartyr Theopemptus, Bishop of Nicomedia and Martyr Theonas

The Holy Martyrs Theopemptus and Theonas suffered in Nicomedia in the year 303. Saint Theopemptus was bishop in Nicomedia in the time of Diocletian. Speaking out against idolatry, he defended the faith in Christ. Because of this, he became one of the first victims of the Diocletian persecution.

The saint refused to obey the emperor's order to worship an idol of Apollo. Saint Theopemptus was thrown into a red-hot furnace, but by the power of God he remained alive. The emperor came to the furnace by night with a detachment of soldiers, and there he saw the saint alive and praying to God. Ascribing the miracle to magic, Diocletian thought to exhaust Saint Theopemptus by depriving him of food and drink for twenty-two days, but the martyr was preserved by the will of God.

The emperor brought the famous sorcerer Theonas to overcome Bishop Theopemptus' supposed magical power. Theonas prepared a poison for Saint Theopemptus, put it into a little cake, and offered it to him to eat. The poison did no harm at all to Saint Theopemptus. Then Theonas tried an even stronger poison on the martyr. Seeing that Saint Theopemptus remained unharmed, he came to believe in Christ. They threw him into prison together with the holy bishop, who taught and baptized him, giving him the name Synesios (which means "full of understanding").

At dawn Diocletian summoned Saint Theopemptus, and again tried to turn him to pagan impiety. Seeing that the bishop remained firm in his faith, he subjected him to many grievous tortures, after which the saint was beheaded. The holy martyr Theonas refused to offer sacrifice to idols, so he was buried alive in a deep ditch. This occurred at Nicomedia in the year 303.

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 5

Today – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour
- 12:30 PM (after Coffee Hour) Great Compline with Litya **FEAST OF THEOPHANY**

Monday, January 6 – 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy with Great Blessing of the Water **FEAST OF THEOPHANY**

Saturday, January 11 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday, January 12 – 9:00 Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Weekly Giving

December 25 – 51 adults, 8 youth, \$4,358

December 29 – 53 adults, 17 youth, \$2,822

Parish Announcements

The sign-up sheet for house blessings is on the table at the back of the church. Please sign-up and request your date – Father Volodymyr will confirm the date with you.

There is a Senior R Club meeting today during Coffee Hour.

Bible Study classes are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM. The next classes will be held on January 15 and January 29. All are welcome.

The metal chairs from Daria Hall are for sale for \$2.00 each. If you are interested please see Father Volodymyr or Herman Meyer.

The Senior R Club is having their annual chicken parm sandwich sale fundraiser next Sunday January 12. A sign-up sheet is on the back table in church. The cost is \$7/sandwich.

Upcoming events:

- * Novogodny Ball – Sunday January 19 (see below)
- * Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday January 26; Senior R Club fundraiser soup and hot dog sale
- * Colonial District Bowling Tournament – Saturday February 22 followed by awards dinner in Daria Hall
- * Spaghetti and Meatball dinner (Meatfare Sunday) – parish fundraiser

Archbishop Michael will visit our parish the weekend of February 22 and 23.

There are five openings on the Parish Council. If you are interested in being nominated, please see Father Volodymyr before next Sunday January 12. Qualifications for nomination: Minimum of two years in the parish and you must be a Voting Parishioner (see Father, Nina Laushell, or Herman Meyer for clarification).

St. Stephen's OCF is hosting the Novogodny Ball on Sunday evening, January 19 at the Radisson Hotel, Rt. 1, Trevoise, PA. If anyone is interested in attending (dinner/dancing or dancing only), please see a member of the Senior R Club for information.