



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

JANUARY 2ND, 2022
FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY;
REPOSE OF ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

Scripture Readings

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Brethren, 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."

Story of the origins of the Vasilopita:

Our normal custom is for the Church School to go off after Communion, but today they are asked to stay afterwards to witness the blessing of the annual Vasilopita bread.

The tradition of baking and cutting a special "pita" each year on January 1st is observed in honor of St. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappodocia - hence its name "Vasilopita" meaning "St. Basil's Bread." This tradition is observed in both parish churches and in the homes of the faithful. *What is the meaning of this tradition and how did it begin?* For centuries, Orthodox Christians have carried on the tradition of baking, blessing, and enjoying Vasilopita, but the story of its origin goes all the way back to a time of terrible famine, the emperor issued a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors' prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins and pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice upon his flock, St. Basil the Great, the archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop's staff and the book of the holy Gospels and came to his people's defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God's grace, the emperor did repent! He canceled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to St. Basil all of the chests containing the taxes he collected. But now St. Basil...

JAN Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st - Kelsey Hlatki
5th - Margo Wilkinson
8th - Tammy Christensen
10th - Michael Hunter
15th - Fr. David Lowell
20th - Litsa Osburn
24th - Keith Shulte
30th - Catherine Anderson-Daly

SCHEDULE

5th - Prayers for Rain (7:00 AM)
6th - Theophany Liturgy (8:00 AM)
8th - Reader's Vespers (5:00 PM)
9th - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate."

- St. John Climacus

"If you want to serve God, prepare your heart not for food, not for drink, not for rest, not for ease, but for suffering, so that you may endure all temptations, trouble and sorrow. Prepare for severities, fasts, spiritual struggles and many afflictions, for 'by many afflictions is it appointed to us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven' (Acts 14,22); 'The Heavenly Kingdom is taken by force, and they who use force seize it' (Matt 11:12)."

- St. Sergius of Radonezh

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your works, and there is no word is sufficient to celebrate Your wonders. May God look after each of us and grant you all a prosperous and prayerful year!
Happy New Year!

Confessions Every Saturday After Vespers or By Appointment

LORD IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

...was faced with the daunting and impossible task of returning these thousands of coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before icons of our Lord Christ and Mary, St. Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge pita. He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral, and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the pita, giving a piece to each person. Miraculously, each owner received in their piece of Vasilopita their own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop St. Basil the Great! In remembrance of that miracle wrought by God as a result of St. Basil's love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st-- the date on which St. Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379. In many places the Vasilopita is prepared as a loaf of rich bread, while in other places it takes the form of a spicy sheet cake (without frosting). But no matter what form a Vasilopita may take, they all have one thing in common-- each contains a single coin. After placing the bread dough or cake batter in the proper baking pan, the baker makes with the foil-wrapped coin the sign of the Cross over it, closes his/her eyes, and then secretly places it into the unbaked Vasilopita. After the Vasilopita is baked and cooled, it is blessed and cut at the Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Basil on January 1st. The one who receives the coin, donates it back to the church, receives a candle, and is considered blessed for the entire year. It is one of the most beautiful and inspiring traditions of the Orthodox Church and is a wonderful way to begin each New Year which God has given to the world.

Coffee Hour Sign-Up

My friend has designed an invisible airplane. I can't see it taking off. The 2022 Coffee Hour Sheet is up in the hall. Every Sunday this month, except for the last Sunday is a normal Sunday Coffee Hour. The 30th will be a potluck. Please consider signing up!

Theophany - Blessing of the Water

We will bless water at Liturgy on Thursday. If you are unable to attend, we will have the Holy Water available in the Font until the end of the month.

House Blessings (Starting Jan. 7th)

With all that is going on, its never too early to plan ahead. The sign up sheet for House Blessings is in the Narthex or you can contact Fr. Stephen directly.

Monarch Pass - Blessing of the Snow/Waters (Jan. 17th)

On Monday, January 17th we will be joining our sister churches in the deanery atop Monarch Pass on the Continental Divide at 11 am for the annual blessing of waters. Please join us for this if you can. If you need a ride, please let Fr. Stephen know and he will make the necessary arrangements.

Quick Parish Council Meeting (Next Sunday - 9th)

Parish Council, we will have a quick meeting to approve the 2022 budget ahead of annual meeting. Coffee hour will be normal. It will be no longer than 5-10 minutes.

Annual Meeting 2022 (Jan. 30th)

Our annual meeting will be on the 30th of this month. The packet will be available the week prior and anyone who is asked to present report should have them in to Fr. Stephen or Becky no later than the 16th. Coffee Hour that day will be a potluck.

Pierogi Still for Sale

The noodles have sold out but we still have Prune Pierogi. Please see Butch if interested. Good if your family has a special meal for Old Calendar Christmas!

Pledge Forms 2022

Pledge forms are available in the box on the Narthex door. If you do not fill one out, we are going to assume your pledge is the same as last year.

2022 Wall Calendars

The 2022 Orthodox Wall Calendars are in the Narthex. They are free to take but if you'd like to leave a little donation, we won't say no.

Prayer List

This list is distributed to the members & friends of St. Mary's Orthodox Church for their personal intercessory prayers as well as for use during services. To include someone on the prayer list, please let Father know and he will gladly add them. Also, unless notified, names will remain on the list for 40 days and then be removed. If you'd like to keep someone on the list, please let Father know. (There may be spelling errors in names, they will be fixed as notified).

Living:

Abp. Benjamin, Fr. Paul, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Michael, Beverly, Mark, Melvin, Anna, Muriel, Alisha, Meryl, Mark, Harold, Dee, Sheila, Daron (Basil), Kelly, Tammy, Anita, Steve, George, April, Hannah, Keith, Lisa, Dixon, John, Scott, Brinley, Mark, Georgiana, Karen, John, Jill, Caryn, Paul, Mark, Rita, Devon, Leilani, Dani with child, DaeLynne with child, Libbie with child, Stephanie with child, Lacie with child, Dillon, Chelsi, Steven, Roberta, Emmy, Katy, Jason, Robert, Wilma, Debbie, Debby, Francis (Susanna), Christina, Carl, Craig, Joel, Lynda

Departed:

Sdn. Steve (Bill), Michael, Delbert, Lou Ann, Nadine, Demarius, Kyril, Rod

Youth:

Snow Tubing (Jan. 16th):

We are going Snowing Tubing after coffee hour on January 16th at Ponderosa Camp Grounds, just off of I-25, between Denver and Colorado Springs near Parker. It costs 10 dollars per person and sponsorships are available for those who would like to go but may not be able to afford it. Let Fr. Stephen know if you are attending or if you'd like to find out more on one of those sponsorships.