



ST. MARY'S HOLY DORMITION

JANUARY 7TH, 2024 AFTERFEAST OF THEOPHANY SYNAXIS JOHN THE BAPTIST

Scripture Readings

Acts 19:1-8 (Epistle, Forerunner)

At that time, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all. And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God.

John 1:29-34 (Gospel, Forerunner)

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

JAN Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st - Kelsey Hlatki
5th - Margo Wilkinson
6th - Logan Bourg
8th - Tammy Christensen
10th - Michael Hunter
15th - Fr. David Lowell
20th - Litsa Osburn
24th - Rowelin Dawson

SCHEDULE

Jan 13th - Great Vespers (5:00 PM)
Jan 14th - Divine Liturgy (9:30 AM)

WISDOM

"The grace of the Holy Spirit which is given mystically to every Christian when he is baptized acts and is manifested in proportion to our obedience to the commandments of the Lord. That is, if a Christian obeys the commandments of the Lord more, grace acts with him more, while if he obeys them less, grace acts within him less. Just as a spark, when covered in the ashes of fire becomes increasingly manifest as one removes the ashes, and the more fire wood you put the more the fire burns, so the grace that has been given to every Christian through Holy Baptism is hidden in the heart and covered up by the passions and sins, and the more a man acts in accordance with the commandments of Christ, the more he is cleansed of the passions and the more the fire of Divine grace lights in his heart, illumines and deifies him."

- St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain

WEEKLY JOKES

Two antennas got married...The ceremony was OK, but the reception was excellent.

A guy sits down at a bar. "Is everything okay?" the bartender asks. "My wife and I got into a fight and she said she wasn't going to talk to me for a month." The bartender says, "Well, maybe that's a good thing... a little peace and quiet?" "Yeah but today is the last day."

How do you have a party in space? You planet.

WELCOME! IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE!

Coffee Hour: 1/7 – Fischer | 1/14 – No One

Church Cleanup: 1/7 – No One | 1/14 – No One

Coffee Hour for the 14th and 21st are regular coffee hours and need someone to sign up. Also, we really need folks to step up and sign up for clean ups as well.

New Years Eve Dance Recap and Next Dance (Feb 17th)

We had over 120 people show up for our first of many community dances. It went really well and the feedback was that everyone had a great time and can't wait for the next one. The next dance will be February 17th after Vespers. More details coming soon. If you are interested in helping with the dances, see Becky or Jeremy.

House Blessings Have Begun – Sign up Sheet in Narthex

Adult Class Resumes (Jan 13th after Vespers)

Budget Meeting with Parish Council (Jan 14th)

Annual Meeting (Jan 28th) – Community Potluck

House Blessings – Why do we do them?

The Orthodox Church teaches that we do not have two separate lives—a secular one and a spiritual one—but one human life, and that all of it must be holy. We must not be Christians for just a few hours on Saturday and Sunday, spending the rest of our life godlessly that is to say, without God. The person who has united with Christ in the sacrament of baptism cannot be a part-time Christian, but must be faithful to Christ everywhere and at all times—in church, at work, at home, in relationships with other Christians, and in those with non-Christians. We must be faithful to Christ in the fullness of our life.

The Orthodox Church teaches us that a temple is not only a building in which we worship, but that we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16); that the Body of Christ is not only that of which we partake at the Divine Liturgy, but that we are the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27). And just as the Gifts of the Eucharist are treated with reverence and kept in sanctified vessels in the altar, so should every Christian's life be full of reverence and sanctity not only during a church service, but likewise outside the walls of the temple. A Christian's home must become a small temple, a small Church.

The Church blesses the very foundation of a home in the same way that it blesses the foundation of a church; it blesses a new Christian home in the same way that it blesses a new temple; and yearly, after the blessing of a parish temple with the water of Theophany, the Church brings this holy water into the homes of the faithful. The prayers for the blessing of a temple are different from those for the blessing of a home, because the function of a home is different from that of a temple, but the sanctifying action of the Holy Spirit is one. And just as in the baptism of our Lord all of creation is washed clean and sanctified, every year after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 6), Christians sanctify themselves and their homes with the water of Theophany.

The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. And just as a temple and sacred vessels, once sanctified and set aside for sacred use, can no longer be used for anything profane, in the same way a Christian washed in the baptismal waters, and his home, and all his works can no longer be the dwelling of sin and the works of Satan, but only and always the temple of the Holy Spirit and the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father.

This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.

The Come and See Challenge:

Have you brought someone NEW this month or brought someone back?

Have you gone to Great Vespers at least once this month?

When was the last time you went to Confession?

Prayer List

Living:

Abp. Benjamin, Abp. Alexander, Met. Isaiah, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Dennis, Meryl, Harold, Tammy, Steve Sr, Litsa, Leilani, child Lilliana, Carl, Christina, Lindy, John, Jeremy, Alicia, Iryland, Patricia, Danny, Christina, Jerry, Roberta, Leonard, Wendy, Judy, Michael, Beverly, Venette, Lily with child, Abigail with child, Infant Dominic, Jill, Donna, Kalee with child, Joseph, Alisha with child, Jackie, Azrah, Amber with child, Anna with child, Joan, Earnie, Alex, Trisha, Troy, Stella, Carol, Ethan, DaeLynn with child, infant AdaLynn, , Nauvlet, Lee, Leilah, Austin, Brian, Rod, Josh, Mother Elizabeth, Mother Magdalena, Kodiak

Those who are confined: Casey, Basil, Mark, Johnny, Hannah

Departed:

Ana, Lloyd, Richard

Youth:

Roller Skating (Feb 4th)

Mark your calendars! We are looking to get a group together to go to Skate City after Liturgy on the 4th of February. It will be \$8 per person (which includes skates). We will go for an early Dinner afterwards. All are welcomed!

St. Ambrose Donations

January is the March for Life and a time which we focus more on the Sanctity of Life. Please use this time to consider donating.