



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### AFTERFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST / SYNAXIS OF THE HOLY GLORIOUS PROPHET, FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST JOHN

January 7, 2024

#### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

##### **Troparion – Tone 6**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life. O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, // glory to Thee.

##### **Troparion – Tone 1**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Who hast revealed Thyself // and hast enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

##### **Troparion – Tone 2**

The memory of the righteous is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner. Thou wast shown in truth to be the most honorable of the Prophets, for thou wast deemed worthy to baptize in the streams of the Jordan Him Whom they foretold. Therefore, having suffered for the truth with joy, thou didst proclaim to those in hell God Who appeared in the flesh, Who takes away the sin of the world, // and grants us great mercy.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 6**

The river Jordan trembled, and was driven back, filled with fear at Thy coming in the flesh, while John drew back in awe as he fulfilled the ministry of the Spirit. The ranks of Angels stood amazed when they beheld Thee baptized in the stream. And we who were in darkness are filled with light. // We praise Thee, O God made manifest, as Thou dost enlighten all.

##### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

Today Thou hast shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Thy countenance has been marked on us. Knowing Thee, we sing Thy praises: “Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, // O unapproachable Light.”

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 1**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on Thee!  
V. *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!*

##### **Prokeimenon – Tone 7**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord / and shall hope in Him.

#### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

##### **Afterfeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

On the first day of the Afterfeast of Theophany, the Church extols Saint John the Baptist as the greatest man born of a woman. He surpasses all the ancient prophets because he baptized the Messiah, Whose coming he foretold.

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## **Synaxis of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John**

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

Saint John, the holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, whom the Lord called the greatest of the prophets, concludes the history of the Old Testament and opens the era of the New Testament. The holy Prophet John bore witness to the Only-Begotten Son of God, incarnate in the flesh. Saint John was accounted worthy to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan, and he was a witness of the Theophany of the Most Holy Trinity on the day of the Savior's Baptism.

The holy Prophet John, the son of the Priest Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, was related to the Lord on His mother's side. The holy Forerunner, John, was born six months before Christ. The Archangel Gabriel announced his birth in the Temple at Jerusalem, revealing to Zachariah that a son was to be born to him.

Through the prayers offered beforehand, the child was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saint John prepared himself in the wilds of the desert for his great service by a strict life, by fasting, prayer and sympathy for the fate of God's people.

At the age of thirty, he came forth preaching repentance. He appeared on the banks of the Jordan, to prepare the people by his preaching to accept the Savior of the world. In church hymnology, Saint John is called a "bright morning star," whose gleaming outshone the brilliance of all the other stars, announcing the coming dawn of the day of grace, illumined with the light of the spiritual Sun, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having baptized the sinless Lamb of God, Saint John soon died a martyr's death, beheaded by the sword on orders of King Herod at the request of his daughter Salome. (On Saint John the Baptist, see Mt.3:1-16, 11:1-19, 14:1-12; Mark 1:2-8, 6:14-29; Luke 1:5-25, 39-80, 3:1-20, 7:18-35, 9:7-9; John 1:19-34, 3:22-26).

**The Transfer of the Right Hand of the holy Forerunner from Antioch to Constantinople (956) and the Miracle of Saint John the Forerunner against the Hagarenes (Moslems) at Chios:** The body of Saint John the Baptist was buried in the Samaritan city of Sebaste. The holy Evangelist Luke, who went preaching Christ in various cities and towns, came to Sebaste, where they gave him the right hand of the holy Prophet John, the very hand with which he had baptized the Savior. The Evangelist Luke took it with him to his native city of Antioch.

When the Moslems seized Antioch centuries later, a deacon named Job brought the holy hand of the Forerunner from Antioch to Chalcedon. From there, on the eve of the Theophany of the Lord, it was transferred to Constantinople (956) and kept thereafter.

In the year 1200, the Russian pilgrim Dobrynya, who later became Saint Anthony, Archbishop of Novgorod (February 10), saw the right hand of the Forerunner in the imperial palace. From the Lives of the Saints we learn that in the year 1263, during the capture of Constantinople by the Crusaders, the emperor Baldwin gave one bone from the wrist of Saint John the Baptist to Ottonus de Cichon, who then gave it to a Cistercian abbey in France.

The right hand continued to be kept in Constantinople. And at the end of the fourteenth to the beginning of the fifteenth centuries, the holy relic was seen at Constantinople in the Peribleptos monastery by the Russian pilgrims Stephen of Novgorod, the deacon Ignatius, the cantor Alexander and the deacon Zosimus. When Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453, sacred objects were gathered up at the the conqueror's orders and kept under lock in the imperial treasury.

In the Lives of the Saints is clear testimony that in the year 1484 the right hand of the holy Forerunner was given away by the son of the Moslem sultan Bayazet to the knights of Rhodes to gain their good will, since a dangerous rival for Bayazet, his own brother, had allied himself with them. A contemporary participant, the vice-chancellor of Rhodes, Wilhelm Gaorsan Gallo, also speaks of this event. The knights of Rhodes, having established their base on the island of Malta (in the Mediterranean Sea), then transferred the sacred relic they had received to Malta.

When the Russian Tsar Paul I (1796-1801) became Grand Master of the Maltese Order in honor of the holy Prophet John, the right hand of the Baptist, part of the Life-Creating Cross and the Philermos Icon (October 12) of the Mother of God (from Mt Philermos on the island of Rhodes) were transferred in 1799 from the island of Malta to Russia [because of the

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Napoleonic threat], to the chapel at Gatchina (October 12). In the same year these sacred items were transferred into the church dedicated to the Icon of the Savior Not Made by Hands at the Winter Palace. A special service was composed for this Feast.

Besides the Synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, the Russian Orthodox Church celebrates his memory on the following days: September 23, his Conception; June 24, his Nativity; August 29, his Beheading; February 24, the First and Second Finding of his Head; May 25, the Third Finding of his Head; October 12, the Transfer of his Right Hand from Malta to Gatchina (1799).

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Epistle: Acts 19:1-8**

And it happened, 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.

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

### **Gospel: John 1:29-34**

The next day 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."

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED

Dates are when the name was added to the bulletin; names will remain in four bulletins and then removed. To add the name again, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

### For the Sick / Caregiver

Bill (12/17)

Margaret (12/17)

Subdeacon Serge (12/17)

Melody (12/17)

Michael (12/17)

Charlotte (12/17)

Natasha (12/17)

Michael (12/17)

Christina (12/24)

Father Paul (12/31)

Matushka Mary (12/31)

Alexandra (12/31)

Liam (1/7)

Kelly (1/7)

### For the Deceased

Pearl (1/7)

John (1/7)

## SERVICES

### Service Schedule for the week of January 7

**Sunday January 7 – SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST** 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Father's birthday Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Saturday January 13** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday January 14** – 9:45 AM Hours; 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## DONATIONS

### Weekly Giving

December 31 – 64 adults, 14 youth, \$2,470

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on January 28 during Coffee Hour. All parishioners should plan on being in attendance for this yearly update on our parish.

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Tuesday January 9 at 7 PM in the church basement.

**Your donations are needed to sustain Coffee Hour. Very little is being donated every Sunday, so please remember to put some money in the basket on the food table so we can continue to have Coffee Hour. Thank you!**

A sign-up sheet for House Blessing is on the table in the back of the church. Please sign up and Father Volodymyr will contact you to set up a time.

**Coffee Hour Support Persons are needed.** If you would like to volunteer to assist once or twice a month, please see Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Father Volodymyr. We encourage everyone to get involved in this weekly parish event.

The FOCA Club will have a Chili Cook-off Fundraiser before the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday January 28. There will be two categories – Mild and Hot. Sample cups will be sold for \$1 each; cups will be numbered so the chili can be voted on for Best Mild Chili and Best Hot Chili! The winners will receive a gift card. **If you would like to volunteer to make a pot of chili, please see Nina Laushell or Herman Meyer by January 14 to register your name.**

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken. **It is important to get your picture taken soon!**

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! We are interested in your favorite recipes, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number

(phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Phyllis Eck – January 9

Noah Meyer – January 9

Natalia Kolomatskaia – January 11

Sebastian Godun – January 13

Tahara Ortiz – January 13

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## COFFEE HOUR

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

### SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Frozen desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

Jan. 7 Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana (Father's birthday celebration)

Jan. 14 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock

Jan. 21 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey

Jan. 28 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING / Chili Cook-Off** - Bill & Margie DiCicco, Chris Kasmer

Feb. 4 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett

Feb. 11 Eleni & Tom Sowanick, Sami Bachir

Feb. 18 Nour Ragab, Tyler Burger

Feb. 25 Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Matthew & Kris Bohush

Mar. 3 Karina Kotelnicki, Gabriela Plesa

Mar. 10 FOCA Club Breakfast Fundraiser

Mar. 17 **NO MEAT** Fiyori Habtesilasse, Gebrekvistos Amleset

Mar. 24 **FAST** Christine Waite, Alla & Perry Strauss

Mar. 31 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Guy Radcliffe

Apr. 7 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Vera Pschenyczny

Apr. 14 **FAST** Corneliu & Florica Balasa, Viktoryia Baranava

Apr. 21 **FAST** Alan & Mimi Berck, Paul & Patti Denko

Apr. 28 **FAST** Alex & Brittani Brasowski, Anna & Leon Brasowski

May 5 **PASCHA – NO COFFEE HOUR**

May 12 Nina Schmidt, Alla & Perry Strauss

May 19 Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Valeria & Timothy Srock

# CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!