



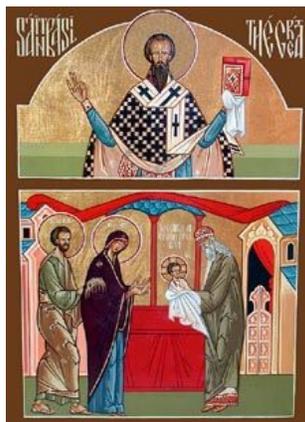
NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

32nd Week after Pentecost

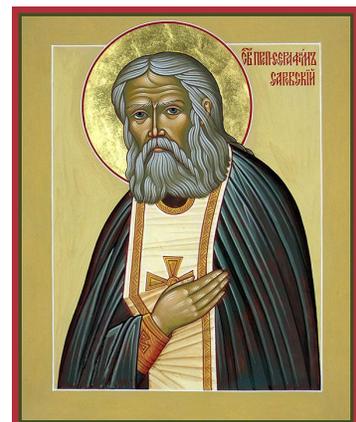
Monday, January 11 — Sunday, January 17, 2021



14,000 Infants (the Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem



The Circumcision of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Venerable Seraphim, Wonderworker of Sarov

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us a ministry of reconciliation.” (2Corinthians 5:17-18) Jesus Christ who is born in a cave and exiled to Egypt with His family has shown each of us how much He loves us through His incredible sacrifice. Today we mourn the 17,000 Holy Innocents who were slain by Herod out of jealousy and fear. Jealousy and fear led Herod to anger and rage. This is the downward cycle of sin that leads us away from Christ and Salvation. Anytime we let anything separate us from the love of God we are in danger. Our work is to do the will of Him who sustains us, therefore, we must live a life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, remaining continually renewed.

Christ is Born,
Glorify Him!

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!

People make mistakes but as long as they have breath in their lungs, there is hope for salvation. Our goal in life is to remain in prayer. If we want to see change in this world, prayer is the answer. There won’t be a news headline about our prayers or our daily work in the church, but those are the things that are truly important.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p style="text-align: center;">~ MONDAY~ (1/11)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:15-21 Martyrs Matthew 2:13-23 Martyrs</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Innocents,; Troparion, Tone I — <i>By the pangs of Thy saints,/ wherewith they suffered for Thee,/ be entreated O Lord, and heal all our pains, // O Thou Who lovest mankind.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: The 14,000 Infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod at Bethlehem (1st c.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ TUESDAY~ (1/12)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Hebrews 7:26-8:2 St. Macarius John 10:9-16 St. Macarius</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion — Tone 4 <i>In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, / an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; / your humility exalted you; / your poverty enriched you. / Hierarch Father Macarius, / entreat Christ our God / that our souls may be saved.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Macarius, metropolitan of Moscow (1563)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ WEDNESDAY~ (1/13)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: James 3:11-4:6 Mark 11:23-26</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of the Feast, Tone IV — <i>Thy nativity, O Christ our God,/ hath shone forth the light of knowledge upon the world;/ for therein those who worship the stars/ have been taught by a star to worship Thee,/ the Sun of righteousness,/ and to know Thee the Orient from on high. // O Lord, glory be to Thee!</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Apodosis of the Nativity of Christ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ THURSDAY~ (1/14)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Colossians 2:8-12 Circumcision Luke 2:20-21, 40-52 Circumcision</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: The Circumcision of our Lord, Troparion, Tone I — <i>O Jesus, Who in the highest dost sit with Thine unoriginate Father and the divine Spirit upon a fiery throne, Thou wast well-pleased to be born on earth of Thy Mother, a Maiden who knew not man; wherefore, thou wast circumcised as a babe eight days of age. Glory to Thine all-good counsel! Glory to Thy dispensation! Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ</p>

~ FRIDAY ~
(1/15)

Holy Scripture:

Galatians 5:22-6:2 Venerable

Luke 6:17-23 Venerable

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Troparion — Tone 4

You loved Christ from your youth, O blessed one, / and longing to work for Him alone you struggled in the wilderness in constant prayer and labor. / With penitent heart and great love for Christ you were favored by the Mother of God. / Therefore we cry to you: / “Save us by your prayers, venerable Seraphim, our father.”

Commemoration of the Day:

Repose (1833), the second finding of relics (1991) of Venerable Seraphim, wonderworker of Sarov

~ SATURDAY ~
(1/16)

Holy Scripture:

2 Timothy 2:1-10 Martyr

Matthew 10:16-22 Martyr

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Holy Martyr Gordius, Troparion, Tone IV

—
In his suffering, O Lord, / Thy martyr Gordius received an imperishable crown from Thee our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Commemoration of the Day:

Prophet Malachias (400 B.C.).

Martyr Gordius at Caesarea in Cappadocia (314)

~ SUNDAY ~
(12/17)

Holy Scripture:

2 Timothy 4:5-8 Sunday Before

Mark 1:1-8 Sunday Before

Excerpt from the Menaion :

Forefeast of the Theophany, Troparion, Tone IV —

Make ready, O Zebulon! / Adorn thyself, O Nephthali! / O River Jordan, leaping up, / receive thou the Master Who cometh to be Baptized! / Rejoice, O Adam, with our first mother! / Hide not yourselves as ye did before in paradise; / for He that beheld you naked hath appeared, / that He may clothe you in your primal raiment. // Christ hath appeared, desiring to make all creation new!

Commemoration of the Day:

Forefeast of the Theophany

“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world.”

[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]

To read more:

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

St Basil the Great on Theophany.

“The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.”

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know: In the Theophany icon, Christ is purposely depicted with little or no clothing. But why is that significant?

All throughout the creation narrative in Genesis we see God creating and then saying it is “good.” Man and woman were created together in God’s image. They were both beautiful, and while they lacked physical garments, they were clothed in the glory of the “image” and “likeness” of God. However, when they fell into sin, they hid in shame until God brought them garments of skin to wear (which symbolizes the sinful tendency that now obscures our true nature). Their natural beauty was transformed into an object of shame. Adam and Eve fell, and with them fell creation.

Now, enter Jesus Christ: he represents the second Adam (1 Cor 15). In shame and nakedness, Adam hid. Yet Christ comes in his majesty, both as God and man, both in glory and nakedness completely unashamed, representing the beauty of the undefiled human made possible through Him (and in the subsequent centuries, Christians were often baptized without any clothing, shedding the garments of the “old man” to die in Christ and be resurrected in Him). But why was Christ baptized if He had no sin?

Read more: <https://www.orthodoxroad.com/theophany-icon-explained/>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
- Anna and her family
- Ekaterina, memory eternal
- Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.

~ THIS WEEK'S SERVICES ~

Tuesday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Wednesday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist - St Nicholas the Wonderworker
Thursday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist - Joy of All Who Sorrow
Friday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Saturday	7am - Matins 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 5pm - Vigil
Sunday	9am - Divine Liturgy

~ BOOKSTORE ~

- The bookstore has been fully restocked, and we have many items ranging in the \$2-12 range. Come on in and take a look!
- Also, in observance of the Nativity of Christ, the bookstore will be closed Thursday, January 7, but will be opened around the many times of the scheduled services.



To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

Archpriest John Tomasi * (310) 749-0524 * frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com
Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahTomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!