

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

Fr. John Shimchick - (856) 665-2491

www.holycrossmzdford.org



Sunday, January 10, 2021

Gospel: St. Matthew 4:12-17

Tone 6

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

31st Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Theophany

Sunday after Theophany / St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssas

Liturgical & Events Schedule

- *Due to the pandemic, if you wish to attend any Liturgical Service, please contact Fr. John.*
- *All services are Live Streamed unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday, January 10

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy followed by Sunday School

Tuesday, January 12

7:00 pm: InReach/OutReach Meeting (by Zoom)
Mtg ID: 910943096 for internet access
Phone in: 1-929-205-6099

Wednesday, January 13,

7:00 pm: Weekly Evening Prayers begin (by Zoom)
Mtg ID: 910943096 for internet access
Phone in: 1-929-205-6099

Saturday, January 16

5:00 pm: Great Vespers

Sunday, January 17

10:00 am: Divine Liturgy followed by Sunday School

January Birthdays

11th Alexandra Lilly
13th Joshua Dowiak, Greg Sapnar, Anthony Zanghi

January Anniversaries

None

Holy Water

Will be available after any Divine Service.

Please bring a WIDE MOUTHED CONTAINER so that the water can be poured in directly without using a funnel. One person will be assigned to pour the water into your container.

Home Blessings

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael has advised that this year's home blessings be delayed until after Pascha, May 2nd.

2020 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements will be mailed this week. If you do not receive one, or find an error in your statement, please notify Trudy Ellmore, Assistant Treasurer.

Need 2 Trustees for 2021

We need two Trustees to serve on the Parish Council for 2021. Please talk to
Diana Pasca (215-694-4893 /
diana.pasca@comcast.net)

or Jessica Siragusa (215-990-5688 /
jessicasiragusa@hotmail.com)

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon offers statement on recent events

SYOSSET, NY [OCA]: On Thursday, January 7, 2021, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon offered the following statement:

“In the aftermath of the troubling events in Washington, DC, yesterday, may we all keep this country and one another in prayer asking the Lord to grant peace, unity, and hope to all the people of the United States of America. As the Apostle Paul exhorts us to do, “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor” (Rom 12:9-10).

O Lord Jesus Christ, who have descended the waters of Jordan sanctifying the whole creation and offering us a new life, protect and keep this country and grant it peace, tranquillity, and reconciliation!”

Theophany: Consider This

The feast marks the beginning of Christ’s earthly ministry. It is also one of the most wonderful examples we have in history where God reveals Himself as Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Theophany is a celebration of God. As an opportunity to encounter God, it is the third most important feast in the Church year (after Pascha and Pentecost, yes, even more important than Christmas!). God’s grace allows us to be present for this manifestation (the revealing of something which allows others to understand its meaning) of the Holy Trinity. It’s impossible for humans to comprehend or understand the nature of God without His direct revelation.

“Why is [Theophany] important for us living in the 21st century? In other words, “So what?”

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- This reading from scripture reveals the Holy Trinity to us: Father (the voice from heaven), Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove).
- When we were baptized, it was a profession of our belief in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Our baptism unites us to the Holy Orthodox Faith, and each day of our life provides

opportunities to glorify God as members of His holy Church.

- We are called to accept God’s grace in our lives, remembering that Christ’s baptism was the beginning of His earthly ministry to redeem us from sin and death.
- Theophany is a reminder of our own baptism, when we were united to the Orthodox Faith.
- Our belief in Jesus as God is based on what we learn and know to be true about God.
- We live in a world impacted by the sin and fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden long ago. So our baptism, even as infants, provides us with a path from death; leading to an encounter with Christ through the liturgy and participation in the Eucharist: His Body and Blood, bringing us into communion with God. By growing in our knowledge of God, we also grow in the knowledge of ourselves understanding our potential, value, self-worth, and purpose.
- We might become teachers, musicians, artists, bankers, performers, monastics, engineers, politicians, doctors, pilots, parents, corporate executives, priests, electricians, or any type of secular or religious professional - but who we are as human beings will be defined by our relationship with God.
- Our ability to succeed in life will not be based on the accumulation of wealth, power, status, or accomplishments. Instead, our life will be judged on our relationship with God and others.

Questions to think about:

1. What do the festal hymns teach us about today’s feast?
2. Why is the theme of light used so much in this feast?
3. What type of relationship exists between God the Father and God the Son: Jesus?
4. How can we keep the festal spirit in our home?
5. When we hear references to the Trinity in our hymns, what do we do?
6. How can we live with the joy of Theophany each day?