

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 3, 2021

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St. ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

- 1. Accept and appropriate for the inner life the peace brought by the Christmas Christ.**
- 2. Find gladness in the memory of every great experience through the past, in the glow of every present blessing, in the hope of all future joys.**
- 3. Be humble and lowly of heart; always ready to forgive; quick to recognize your faults and slow to take offense.**
- 4. Center the thoughts each day on how much love, service and kindness can be given, instead of what material things are lacking.**
- 5. Seek earnestly divine guidance. Wait on the Lord and run not ahead of His plans. No blunder can ever be made when life is lived within His will.**
- 6. Love, and there will be no room for envy. Trust, and there will be no place for worry. Have faith, and there will be no doubts.**
- 7. Magnify the things of eternal value and minimize the temporary. Put aside the petty cares that pass with the passing day.**
- 8. Refuse to let jealousy, covetousness, greed and envy preoccupy your mind and short-circuit your prayers.**
- 9. Steady life by having a lofty purpose. Lift its horizon by contemplating the needs of all mankind. Widen your vision by loving the world as God loved it.**
- 10. Rest in Christ. He is the secret of the abundant life, the fulfillment of every worthwhile dream and desire.**

By Tal Bonham - 1991

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 - GOSPEL READING
SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."

3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

5 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.

6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 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.

8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY

January 3, 2021

Tone 5 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

Prepare, O Zebulon, and adorn yourself, O Naphtali! River Jordan, cease flowing, and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized! Adam, rejoice with our first Mother, and do not hide yourselves as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked, He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment. Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Tone 5 **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Tone 4 **Kontakion** *(Forefeast)*

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John: "Do not be afraid to baptize Me. For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5

**SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY. Forefeast
of the Theophany. Holy Prophet Malachi**

Saturday, January 2

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 3

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Sbd. Terrence Bilas

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush

Epistle 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

***MOLIEBEN to St. Juliana the Merciful,
Patroness of our Parish Sisterhood***

**THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

Tuesday, January 5 – 6:00 pm

**Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Great Sanctification of Water**

**31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY.**

**Afterfeast and Sunday after the Theophany. Saint
Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa**

Saturday, January 9

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 10

9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc

**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John
Chrysostom**

Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc

Epistle Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Feast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Commemorated on [January 6](#)



Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death”

(Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

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.

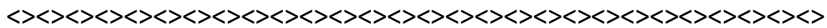
On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church

teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27).

On the day of Theophany, all foods are permitted, even if the Feast falls on a Wednesday or Friday.

*For the Feast of Theophany
The Vespersal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on
Tuesday evening, January 5th at 6 :00 pm*



2021 CHURCH CALENDARS & OFFERING
ENVELOPES

Please pick up yours from the front pew

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020

Candles:	\$ 34.00
Sunday Offering:	1,695.00
<u>Christmas Offering:</u>	<u>225.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$1,954 .00

**“Tithley” Electronic Donations
Nov.30 – Dec. 30 - 1,141.27**

Orthodox Christian Women

Presents

Our Annual Winter Mini-Retreat
Saturday, January 23, 2021 10:00 am

Zoom Event

Free Event ~~ Everyone Welcome!
“ST. BASIL & HIS NEW CITY”

(Orthodox Christian response of love to the
issue of poverty)

SPEAKER: JOE MAY

Joe May is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He spent 10 years working in homeless ministry with the Catholic Worker Community and Matthew 25 House in South Akron. Joe is currently the Corporate Social Responsibility Manager at State and Federal Communications. He is a member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and St. Elia the Prophet Church in Akron.

Contact Nikki Bober (330-409-3552 or email at nlbober@gmail.com) Or Nancy Studebaker (330-655-9638) For questions or information regarding the Zoom Link

Important Guidelines on Attending the Divine Services

All services will continue to be *live streamed* by visiting our website www.saintelia.com.

In accordance with the State of Ohio, CDC, and Diocesan guidelines we all must follow these simple steps when attending:

- 1) If you or your family member is sick please stay home.
- 2) All must wear masks in church (disposable masks are provided in the vestibule).
- 3) Sanitize your hands before entering the church (sanitizer is located in the vestibule).
- 4) All are required to keep 6 feet social distancing. Pews are marked for available and not available seating.

5) Please... **THERE WILL BE NO GATHERING IN THE VESTIBULE, OFFICE OR PARISH HALL**

So sorry to say... but we cannot kiss the icons, cross, chalice, gospel book, and/or Father's hand.

Lastly, due to limited seating to ensure safe distancing and Diocesan Guidelines, parishioners must pre-register to attend liturgical services.
Please call Fr. Don (330) 472-6456 or 330-724-7009

