

*January 6, 2019*

*St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

*Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America*

*2143 S. Center Rd, Burton, MI 48519*

*Served by: Fr. Matthew-Peter Butrie – Rector mobile:810-247-4265*

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**The Gospel according to Mark**

**1:9-11 (Theophany)**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And immediately, as he was coming up from the water, he saw the heavens parted open and the Spirit like a dove coming down upon him. And there was a voice from heaven, You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019 32nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Ven. Macarius of Mt. Athos (1431).**

**FIRST ANTIPHON**

When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Judah became His sanctuary, Israel His dominion.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

The sea looked and fled, Jordan turned back.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

What ails you, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back? **Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

**SECOND ANTIPHON**

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. I suffered distress and anguish, then I called upon the name of the Lord.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Gracious and righteous is the Lord, and our God is merciful.

**O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

### **THIRD ANTIPHON**

**O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

**(Tone 1)** When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the FaFather bare 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!

**Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare 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!

**Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare 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!

**Let those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!**

When Thou, O Lord, wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare 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!

### **LITTLE ENTRANCE**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Upright!

**Priest:** Blessed is He that comes in the name of “Lord”! We bless you from the House of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! O Son of God baptized in the Jordan, save us who sing to you! Alleluia!

**(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 bare 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!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**(Tone 4)** Today Thou hast appeared to the universe, and Thy Light, O Lord, has shown on us, who with understanding praise Thee: Thou hast come and revealed Thyself, O Light Unapproachable.

### **INSTEAD OF “HOLY GOD...”**

**As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!**

***The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! / God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself to us!***

**v: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.**

**THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO TITUS (2:11-14; 3:4-7)** *Titus, my child*, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

***Alleluia, Tone 4***

**v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!**

**v: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, the God of glory thunders, the Lord, upon the many waters!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (3:13-17)** At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**INSTEAD OF “IT IS TRULY MEET TO BLESS YOU, O THEOTOKOS...”**

Magnify, O my soul, the most pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable than the heavenly hosts! No tongue is capable of praising you worthily; the angelic mind is overawed in exalting you, O Theotokos! But accept our faith, since you are gracious and know our divine love. You are the protectress of Christians and we praise you!

**COMMUNION HYMN**

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**INSTEAD OF “WE HAVE SEEN THE TRUE LIGHT”**

When Thou, O Lord wast baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest! For the voice of the Father bare 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!

**THE OUTDOOR BLESSING OF WATER WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY.**

**EVERYONE, PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL EPIPHANY BANQUET FOLLOWING THE BLESSING OF WATER.**

**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 the 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.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in *The Apostolic Constitutions* (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan, John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at 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.

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 Indivisible. 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).

January 6, 2019



**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF**

Health & blessings John & Rose Goodman

Health & blessings for Helen Ethington and Peter & Jo Sredich

Health & blessings for Calvin Conrad

Calvin Conrad

Alex & Mary

Fr. Tom, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Angelo, Aaron, Reggie, John, Alex, Irene, Rimi, Allen, Deborah, JoAnn, Susan, Luba, Kosta, David, Anna, Walt, Vladimir, Dorothy, Allison, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Jeanette, Christopher, Ted, Marlene, Joseph, Nicholas, Margaret, Gladys, my family and friends

Special Intention

Ralph, Debbie, Joe & Sarah  
Stojan & Mira Prusac  
Stojan & Mira Prusac  
Ruth Conrad  
Alex & Magda Popoff

Joe Tome  
Joe Tome

**CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE**


Peter Popoff & John Naum

Ponte Brown~Memory Eternal

Alex & Magda Popoff  
Dorothy & family



**WELCOME** to all our friends and visitors.

**COFFEE & DONUTS**  Volunteers are needed for the month of January. Please see the signup sheet outside the kitchen.

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PAN ORTHODOX WINTER DINNER** to support the Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction will be held on Thursday, January 17 at St. George. Reservations need to be made not later than Sunday, January 13. You may also see Deborah Gonsler-Adams for more information and to make your reservation(s). **Our parish is responsible for supplying the appetizers this year. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hall to indicate what you will be bringing.** We expect approximately 150 people for the dinner.

**ANNUAL MEETING** The Annual Meeting of Saint Nicholas Parish will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 beginning with a short prayer service after the Divine Liturgy. The Meeting will then reconvene in the Parish Hall. **All parish organizations must present a report, oral or written, to be given at this meeting.**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready to be picked up in the parish hall. Please don't forget to use them in the New Year.



**KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS** You can register for Community rewards online or at the store's services desk. After doing so, they will send a check to St. Nicholas for a portion of everything participants spend.

**HOPE IN A BOX** is collecting **toilet paper** for the month of January. Place the items in the blue box in the Parish Hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

**FOOD DRIVE** Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.

**WINTER WARM UP** Catholic Charities is in need of hats, gloves, scarves, socks, boots, coats & other warm winter gear. For more information call 810-265-7025. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri 9:30-3:30 at 812 Root St, Flint.

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Today**                      **Blessing of water & Theophany Banquet**

**Monday, Jan 7**              **House blessings begin**

**Tuesday, Jan 8**  
6:30 pm                      Parish Council Meeting. Please call or email the parish office (810-744-0070) if you are unable to attend this meeting. Check your email for reports & agenda.

**Wednesday, Jan 9**  
9:30 am                      Divine Liturgy  
11:15 am                      Adult Ed class

**Saturday, Jan 12**  
5 pm                          Vespers

**Sunday, Jan 13**  
9:30 am                      Hours  
10 am                          Divine Liturgy  
                                        Church School

**Offerings for the week December 30, 2018**

<i>Weekly Offerings</i>	\$ 1,110.00
<i>Estimated Average Weekly Expenses</i>	\$ 4,034.03
	<b>\$-2,924.03</b>

*50 people were in attendance on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.*

**“If you want somebody to understand you, you have to become like them. This is what God did: He became human, spoke like us, interacted with us on all human levels- except sin- and so was able to communicate with us fully. So Christ came to save us and didn’t merely meet us as we are, but did something more: He gave Himself that we might live. In other words, He gave up everything He had and sacrificed Himself.” – Metropolitan Athanasios of Lemessos**