

# PETRA NEWS

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**BAPTISM OF OUR  
LORD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2020**

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2020

## STS PETER & PAUL WEEKLY SERVICES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021  
(STRICT FAST DAY)

### Eve of the Theophany of Christ

Royal Hours \_\_\_\_\_ 9am  
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St Basil  
& Blessing of the Waters \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

### The Holy Theophany of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Orthros \_\_\_\_\_ 8am  
Divine Liturgy &  
Greater Blessing of the Waters \_\_\_ 9am

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 2021

Great Vespers \_\_\_\_\_ 5pm

**FAST FREE  
DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 4**

## THE PRAYER FOR THE CATECHUMENS

“Lord our God, Who dwells on high and watches over the humble, You sent forth Your only-begotten Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the human race. Look down upon Your servants, the catechumens, who have inclined their necks to You, and grant them at a proper time the baptism of rebirth, the remission of sins, and the garment of incorruption. Unite them to Your holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and number them among Your chosen flock.”

Baily, Chad, Justin, Natasha, Yehor

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE EPIPHANY

### RESURRECTIONAL HYMN (PLAGAL 1ST TONE)

*“Eternal with the Father and the Spirit is the Word,  
Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation.  
As the faithful we both praise and worship Him,  
for in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the Cross,  
and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead  
through His all glorious resurrection.”*

### HYMN FOR THE FOREFEAST OF THEOPHANY

*“O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim.  
Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive the  
Master who is coming to be baptized.  
Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother.  
No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise;  
for having seen you naked He has appeared  
to clothe you in your former vesture.  
The Christ has appeared,  
wishing to renew the entire creation.”*

### HYMN FOR STS PETER PAUL

*“O Leaders of the Apostles, and teachers of the world,  
intercede with the Master of all  
that He may grant peace unto the world,  
and to our souls His great mercy.”*

### KONTAKION

*“To the flowing streams today of River Jordan  
comes the Lord and cries aloud to John the Baptist,  
and He says, “Be not afraid to baptize me now;  
for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”*

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Orthros Gospel: John 20:11-18  
Epistle Reading: Tim 4:5-8  
Gospel Reading: St. Mark 1:1-8

# SUNDAY BEFORE THE EPIPHANY

## EIGHTH ORTHROS GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:11-18

At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if

you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that He had said these things to her.

## EPISTLE: ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY 4:5-8

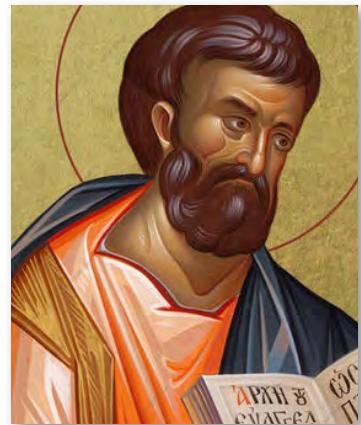
TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought

the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



## THE FEAST OF LIGHTS: EPIPHANY / THEOPHANY

Our life on earth is especially dependent upon water and light. Water covers most of the earth and interacts with the entire cycle of nature to help things grow. In a comparable way light is essential to photosynthesis, the miracle behind everything that is green. It causes creative changes in the atmosphere and on the surface of the earth. Light allows us to appreciate nature's rich colors. And these two elements - water and light - are the chief symbols for the Holy Theophany of our Lord, or the Feast of Lights, which we celebrate on January 6.

Theophany is one of the most important feast days in the Orthodox Church along with Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. Theophany commemorates the event of Jesus' baptism. According to the Gospels, when Jesus came to be baptized heaven opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove and God the Father by His heavenly voice gave witness that Jesus was His beloved Son. Jesus' baptism signified not only His own divine identity as Son of God but also disclosed the glory of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and



God the Holy Spirit. Thus, along with the themes of the sanctification of the waters, purification from sin and renewal, Theophany also celebrates the revelation of God to the world. "Theophany" means divine manifestation - the manifestation of God to the world as Trinity, the three great Lights of Father, Son and Spirit, one in essence and glory.

Every manifestation of Jesus Christ, both in history and in the inner life of each person, is simultaneously a manifestation of humility and of glory. Whoever tries to separate these two aspects of Christ commits an error which falsifies the whole spiritual life. I cannot approach the glorified Christ without, at the same time, approaching the humiliated Christ, nor the humiliated Christ without approaching the glorified Christ. If I desire Christ to be manifested in me, this cannot come about except through embracing Him whom Augustine delighted to call 'the lowly and humble Christ,' and, in the same upsurge, worshipping Him Who is also God and King.

## JESUS BAPTISM: A SIGN OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Although He was acclaimed as king as His entrance in Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), Jesus' kingship was fulfilled only on the cross: "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"; said Jesus after His resurrection (Lk 24:26).

The Kingdom of God is inaugurated through the cross: the doors of paradise open to welcome the King of Glory and His traveling companion, the repentant thief. When Jesus foretells His passion to the apostles, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, ask to enter the Kingdom and to sit with Him in glory, one on His right hand, the other on His left. Jesus tells them that they must undergo baptism into death and drink of the cup of martyrdom before sharing in His glory (Mk 10:35-40).

Before being reborn in the resurrection, every person must die with Christ. At our baptism, we experience the symbol of the death and resurrection of Christ. The triple immersion in water represents the three days in the tomb, through which the Savior has vanquished death (Rom 6:3-11).



"Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36)

These are the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost. From this day, the apostles associate the term 'Christ' (Messiah, Anointed) with the name of Jesus (Savior). Henceforth, the disciples baptize and heal in the name of Jesus Christ.

Whoever calls on this name will be saved.

The newly-baptized are called Christians (Acts 11:26), because they are anointed by the Holy Spirit, just like their Lord and Master. On the day of our baptism, each of us is anointed with the Holy Spirit like Christ in the Jordan. As we emerge from the water, we receive chrismation, the anointing with Holy Chrism, which has been consecrated by the bishop. It is a seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit. We become 'christs' in our turn and we sing: "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Alleluia!" (Gal 3)

# THE GREAT BLESSING OF THE WATERS

As a great feast, Theophany includes a whole cycle of liturgical services. On the Forefeast of Theophany (January 5), we read according to tradition the Royal Great Hours, a prayer service consisting of many hymns, psalms and other readings from the Old and New Testaments. After the Great Hours, the Great Vespers of Theophany combined with the Liturgy of St Basil is celebrated. All these services are then crowned with the special rite of the Blessing of the Waters, a rite which is repeated on the Feast of Theophany following Matins and the Liturgy of St. Basil.

The Blessing of the Water of the Forefeast of Theophany is sometimes called the Small Blessing of the Waters and on the Feast of Theophany it is called the Great Blessing of the Waters. Both are exactly the same, however, and have the



same value. It is done twice probably because of the great throngs of people who traditionally came to receive holy water. A sign of sanctification by God's grace, the blessed water is sprinkled throughout the Church, on the congregation and on each Orthodox Christian individually. It may also be drunk. On the Feast of Theophany and on subsequent days all the faithful, their homes and often their fields, gardens and other possessions are traditionally sprinkled with holy water by the priest or head of the household while the Theophany Hymn is sung. Holy water in small bottles may also be kept in homes near the icons for drinking before breakfast or for blessing of persons or the home on the first days of each month or special occasions.

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES UPDATE 12/27/2020

The revised Colorado Safer-at-Home guidelines set forth by the Governor of Colorado allow Sts Peter Paul to 45 people in Church during the services.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS ARE REQUIRED AND TO BE PROPERLY WORN AT ALL SERVICES INCLUDING ALL WEEKDAY SERVICES.**

Please be considerate and **sign up for only one of the weekend services** (Divine Liturgy). Please allow others to sign up if you have already attended, especially if it was the prior Sunday. If at the end of the week (Saturday evening), the list is not filled, then please sign up. If you did not sign up or prefer not to attend on Sunday, please contact Father Jordan (frjordanbrown@gmail.com or 720-329-5212. Arrangements can be made to receive Holy Communion during the week.

**The weekly schedule of services are as follows:**

- Tuesday, January 5, Evening Vesperal Divine Liturgy 5pm
- Wednesday, January 6, Divine Liturgy 9am
- Sunday, January 10, Divine Liturgy, 9:30am  
*Sign-up required*

**The fellowship Hall will remain closed on Sundays. The Welcome committee and members of the Parish Council will offer coffee & pastry 'To Go' at the end of service. Due to recent restrictions, in person Sunday School, Classes and Bible Studies are discontinued until further notice. The Wednesday Bible Study is available via 'zoom.' Father Jordan will offer a youth discussion via 'zoom' beginning December 5th (details TBA).**

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING OF HOMES 2021

Father Jordan will begin blessing homes on the Feast of Epiphany, January 6th. Father will be blessing all the homes of our parish. The house blessing schedule will be going out next week. House blessings will be a little different for 2021. Father Jordan will be blessing only the entrance of the home. If you are new to our parish or have any questions for Father, please contact him.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Classes will resume on January 13th

### ORTHODOX FAITH SERIES

If you are interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Father Jordan at [frjordanbrown@gmail.com](mailto:frjordanbrown@gmail.com) or 303-581-1434. The Orthodox Christian Faith Classes will begin in January 2021.



## BOOKSTORE

We are here for you! Philoptochos would be happy to help you with your bookstore purchase on Sunday's after Liturgy. Please see Lis Troicky or Julie Powers.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### FIRESIDE CHAT (MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL ONLY) SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Sts Peter Paul will begin a Fireside Chat for our teens (middle and high school age only) beginning Saturday, January 9th. We will meet for evening prayer, Vespers at 5 pm, and gather for dinner and discussion in the parish hall (5:45 pm / 6 pm). We will gather in a safe distance manner. If you have any questions, please contact Father Jordan.

## HOME VISITATIONS

Father Jordan is available to make home visitations for our elderly, shut ins, and all those with 'high risk' health challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Jordan to schedule a visit. Parishioners with 'high risk' health challenges are welcome to visit the church during the week to schedule a time to pray and receive the Holy Sacraments.



## GROCERY GIFT CARDS

Remember to purchase your grocery gift cards and old Chicago pizza Palz from Julie Powers on Sunday or contact her directly at [powerjulie@gmail.com](mailto:powerjulie@gmail.com)

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY JANUARY, 10TH

Please return your completed stewardship cards by next Sunday, January 10.  
Cards received by that date will be entered into a prize drawing.

### 2021 STEWARDSHIP PACKETS

Please pick up your 2021 Stewardship Packets and Church Calendars located in the Narthex of the Church. Thank you.  
(Any packets remaining after Sunday will be mailed)



## SAINTS PETER & PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

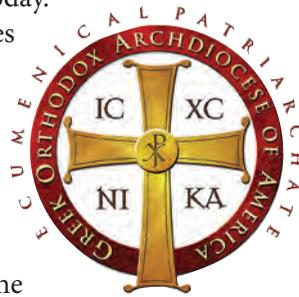
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### ABOUT OUR PARISH

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We welcome visitors worshipping with us today. Our diverse church family encompasses many converts to the Orthodox Christian Faith, as well as Greek, Arab, Romanian, Serbian and Russian Orthodox Christians. The foundation of the Orthodox Church are the teachings and Holy Tradition of Jesus Christ. We follow the first Christians who began to worship Jesus Christ after the Crucifixion and Resurrection.



Please introduce yourself to our priest and members of our community. We also encourage you to join us for our fellowship after services in the parish hall and visit our bookstore. If you are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Christian faith, please visit with our priest, Fr. Jordan Brown.

### HOLY COMMUNION IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Holy Communion is reserved only for baptized and/or chrismated Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared by prayer, fasting, and confession.

The Orthodox Church understands the reception of Holy Communion to be the highest expression of our faith. Both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike are invited to receive the 'antidoro' (blessed bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



### PRIEST

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Reverend Father Jordan Brown

### PARISH COUNCIL

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President - Erica Gerakos  
Vice President - Nicholas Kallan  
Treasurer - Brian Gregory  
Secretary - Phillip Haratsaris

### PHILOPTOCHOS

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Presidents - Dana Gall and  
Sharon Dzilvelis  
Treasurer - Julie Powers

### YOUTH / GOYA

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Fr. Jordan Brown

### CHOIR DIRECTOR

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Presbytera Marika Brown

### RECURRING SERVICES

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Orthros - Sundays, 8:15am  
Divine Liturgy - Sundays, 9:30am  
Great Vespers - Saturdays, 5pm  
Confession by appointment.