

RE-CLAIMING OUR HOMES FOR CHRIST: A NOTE ON HOUSE BLESSINGS

When our homes are blessed, we reclaim our homes, and everyone and everything in them, for Christ: our wives, our husbands, our marriages... our children... our working and studying... our worrying and our struggling... our decisions and our dilemmas... our successes and our rejoicing: we reclaim all of our lives for Christ, by inviting Him into our inner sanctum.



The custom of blessing homes during the Theophany season is of special beauty and significance. We show the Lord – and the devil – that we wish for God to physically expel every trace of sin, anger, bitterness, and worry that has invaded our homes and our families over the past year!

When Father comes to bless the family and house, these things should be prepared:

- A lit candle, an icon, and a wide bowl for Holy Water should be on the table.
- All radios, televisions, etc. should be turned off.
- All present in the house should come together and stand at the table.
- Lists of Departed and Living family members and loved ones to be prayed for.

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH Yonkers, New York



Sunday, January 4, 2015
30th Sunday After Pentecost
The Sunday Before Theophany
~ HAPPY NEW YEAR! С НОВЫМ ГОДОМ! ~

HOLY WATER – TOMORROW & TUESDAY

Water will be blessed and shared tomorrow (7pm Vigil) and Tuesday (9am Liturgy)!



HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

Trinity Plaza ♦ 46 Seymour Street ♦ Yonkers, New York 10701

Rector: Rev. David Cowan ♦ Protodeacon John Eby

Attached: V. Rev. John Tkachuk ♦ Rev. Vitaly Bahanovich

Rector Emeritus: V. Rev. Yaroslav Sudick, Ph.D., D.D.

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Diocese of New York & New Jersey: www.nynjoca.org

Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015 ~ 30th Sunday After Pentecost ~ Sunday Before Theophany

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

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Today – Sunday Before Theophany

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Monday, January 5 – Eve of Theophany (Strict Fast Until Sunset)

7:00 PM *Compline Service with Blessing of Water*

Tuesday, January 6 – Theophany (Epiphany): The Baptism of Christ

9:00 AM *Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Water*

Blessing of Homes Begins January 6 – Father David will be contacting you to schedule your home blessing.

Questions? Call (914) 965-6815; or email frdavidcowan@gmail.com

Wednesday, January 7 – Afterfeast of Theophany;

Synaxis of John the Baptist (Nativity of Our Lord on the Julian Calendar)

10:00 AM *Divine Liturgy / Божественная литургия*

Saturday, January 10 – Saturday After Theophany

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, January 11 – Sunday After Theophany

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*; Followed by the Christmas Yolka and Luncheon – Suggested Donation \$20 for Adults

Saturday, January 17

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, January 18

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

3:00 PM *Wedding* of George Miroshnikov and Madeline Loving

Saturday, January 24

5:30 PM Private Confession Available

6:00 PM *Great Vespers*

Sunday, January 25 – Zacchaeus Sunday

9:30 AM *Divine Liturgy*

Following the Liturgy: Annual Parish Meeting. Amendments to our Bylaws will be proposed and voted on, provided we have a quorum. The proposed amended Bylaws are available now for review by any parishioner. See Fr. David. ALSO: Last year's Annual Meeting Minutes are available for review; see Jim Perry.

A REFLECTION ON THE NEW YEAR (continued)

The object of New Year's, spiritually, is not merely that we should have a new year. The object is that **in this new year, we should have a new attitude, new opportunities, and a new soul. The object of the new year is to have new hands to give generously, new legs to serve the Church and the needy, new eyes to see the goodness in others, not condemning or judging them, and new ears to hear Christ call us to follow Him.** The object of the new year is to have new dreams, new hope and new love.

We are born of water in the Spirit to have newness of life. **You can be renewed in this new year if you confront your vices, especially of arrogance and self-inflated importance; and stop being greedy, jealous or holding grudges. Only you can make a u-turn to have peace within yourself, because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.** Only you can be new on New Year's Day if you practice the following resolution: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ." (Ph. 4:6-7)

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. The Lord of hosts is with us." (Ps 46:1-3, 7)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me." (Rev 3:20)

May you be open to God's grace to be new, not only on the first day of the year, but throughout the many days, months and years to come. Remember, faith makes all things possible, hope makes all things work and love makes all these things beautiful.

Father George is the pastor of St. Mary's Basilica (Antiochian Archdiocese), Livonia, Michigan.

WANT TO HELP A STRUGGLING PARISH, MISSION, OR SEMINARIAN WITHIN OUR DIOCESAN FAMILY?

Become a **DISTINGUISHED DIOCESAN BENEFACTOR!**

To see a video "slice of life" of our Diocesan churches, visit www.nynjoca.org/vision_for_future_2012.html ... and scroll down to VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS. Questions? See Fr. David.



A REFLECTION ON THE NEW YEAR

Father George Shalhoub

Beloved, I greet you and your loved ones in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, Who became one of us in order for us to become one with Him.



I am fascinated by the popularity of New Year's resolutions, as if our lives depend on them, and how so many people abandon their resolutions. National statistics state that **90% of all resolutions will be forgotten within the first few days of the New Year.**

I wish to point out the first feast day of the New Year is January 1st, St. Basil the Great, Then, on January 6th, comes the Feast of Theophany (the appearance of God at Christ's baptism). We read in the Gospel of St. Mark that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit appeared at Jesus' baptism. (Mark 1:10-11)

In Him is our beginning and our end. And, **unless we make room to receive God, as He appeared to us, everything will remain old in us.** His appearance renews and transforms us, making us children of the most high God by entering into communion with Him through the mysteries of the Church—the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. Our faith teaches us to believe in Christ and in His Holy Church. God is timeless. Therefore, we do not wait for a new year, because God's grace is a living engine that moves us every moment, every day, every year through the rest of our lives.

Days come and go; and world events, such as crisis, war, sickness, will remain a part of this world. The difference is that **God's grace in us moves us through all of life's events, strengthening us because we can do all things, through Christ, Who strengthens us, as the Holy Apostle Paul says.**

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PASTORAL CARE – GENERAL INFORMATION

Emergency Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please call Fr. David's cell phone, 1-(570) 878-5074, when a family member is admitted to the hospital.

Anointing In Sickness: The Sacrament of Unction is available in Church, the hospital, or your home, for anyone who is sick, however severe. It doesn't mean "Last Rites!"

Marriages and Baptisms require early planning, scheduling, and selection of sponsors (crown bearers or godparents). See Father before booking dates and reception halls!

Funerals are celebrated for practicing Orthodox Christians. Please see Father for details. ***The Church opposes cremation; we cannot celebrate funerals for cremations.***

TODAY'S EPISTLE 2 Timothy 4:5-8 My son Timothy: Be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 6For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

TODAY'S GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'" 4John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5Then 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. 6Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7And 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. 8I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

CHURCH WALL CALENDARS FOR 2015
will be here in the next several days.

ALTAR SERVERS ~YOUNG and YOUNG-AT-HEART!

The 2015 Diocesan **ALTAR SERVER RETREAT** is coming up –
Friday-Sunday, Feb. 6-8, at St. Basil's Academy, Garrison, NY
Please see Fr. David for details.

SCHOLARSHIPS SOUGHT FOR ST. ANDREW'S CAMP:

His Grace, Bishop Michael, is appealing to individuals
across our Diocese, who realize that they have been blessed by God and
are in a position to share in those blessings, to provide a
Christmas “gift of Camp for a week”
for our young people to attend St. Andrew's Camp, in Jewell, NY, this coming summer.

Your gift would bless a camper who otherwise could not attend St. Andrew's
because of financial constraints. The cost of Camp is \$300 per week
per individual – that includes room and board, meals, and all activities, including
at least one special excursion each week.

Checks may be made payable to St. Andrew's Camp Scholarship,
and mailed to: Diocesan Chancery, 33 Hewitt Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708.
Visit www.saintandrewscamp.org for more information on the Camp.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Sun., Feb. 15, 5:00 PM: Bishop Michael Hosts the Annual Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Appreciation Dinner, Here!** All parishioners are invited ... and anyone who could help serve this dinner (which will be catered) would be greatly appreciated! See Matushka Tamara to offer your assistance.
- Sat., March 21: Lenten Retreat with Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery.** Details coming soon!

PRAYER LIST

Above all, we are a praying community. Keep this list in your prayer corner, and in your daily prayers, remember our Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Anatole Honczarenko; Matushka Patricia Mason; the newly baptized Anastasia VanLare; Catechumen Mary Ann Paprocki; Adriana Szpynda; Paul “PJ” Sulich; Christina McDonald; Mary Smith; Fr. John Tkachuk; the child David; newborn Micah Needham, Elena King; Ludmila Branzow; Katherine & newborn Gabriel Brasowski; Natasha Harris; Nathan Orsini; Olga Ptach; Suzanne Gee; Peter Tymus, Jr.; Matthew & Malek, traveling in the Middle East; Dorothy Vernak; Nikolette Katechis; John Loving; Mat. Leanne Parrott and the child to be born to her; Nicholas Washenko; Maryanne Nolan; His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim; George & Madeline, Jason & Kimberly Ovsag, Paul & Natalia, Joshua & Jacqueline, Norm & Elena, Stan & Victoria, and all those preparing for marriage; Kevin Kuzmenko; Shawn Malone; Metropolitan Paul and Bishop Gregorios, Vera Bullock; John & Julia Wislocki; Schuyler Perry; Doris Morin; Kelly Ray; Justin Solak; Carmen Fesh; Deborah Chaiko; Anne Kakos, Kay Baker (Anne's sister); Vitaliy Khutko; Malcolm Kirkpatrick; Inga Serniak; Nikolai & Nadezhda Solidnov; Kathleen Nolan; the priests Frs. Leonid Kishkovsky, John Pawelchak, Herman Schick, Ken James Stavrevsky, Daniel Degyansky, Michael Koblosh, Stephen Mack; PDns. Peter Skoog & Michael Sochka; Alvin; Ann Belchyk; Aleksandra Borzova; Helen Delandri; Helen Dempsey; Olga Jaworski; Olga Juck; Mary Kalakuka; Mary Kantor; Daria Krawchuk; Olga Pavelchak; Stephanie Phillips; Tekla Rzyzyk; Mat. Juliana Schmemann; Zena Weshta; all those confined to hospitals, nursing homes, and their own homes due to illness; for all soldiers, especially Jorge; widows, orphans, prisoners, victims of violence, and refugees, especially in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the Ukraine; all those suffering chronic illness, financial hardship, loneliness, addiction, abuse, abandonment and despair; all Orthodox seminarians and their families; all Orthodox monks, nuns and all those considering the monastic life; all Orthodox missionaries and their families.

For blessed repose for the souls of: Newly departed Helen Waryha (+12/14); Charles Brown (+12/6); Melinda Butler; the ever-memorable Vladimir & Vira and all those named Joseph, David & James; and all departed this life in hope of the Resurrection.

Please give prayer requests to Fr. David, to Protodeacon John, or to an Altar Server. Typically, names remain on this list for 40 days, unless requested otherwise. Those confined to hospitals or homes, or suffering chronic illnesses, remain on the list.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS – our parish sons & daughters, OCF chapter members, AND those at nearby colleges who make HTO their spiritual home away from home!

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| Michael Bouteneff | Madeline Loving | Peter Rzyzyk |
| Joe Giamarra | George Miroshnikov | Matt Skalski |
| Megan Jones | Kamille Perry | Alexandra Solak |
| Kaydee Kowalczyk | Schuyler Perry | Nick Thanasias |
| Dan Kozak | Roman Piwinski | Monika Wislocki |
| Peter Kreatsoulas | Amanda Rzyzyk | |

Please tell Fr. David if there are any errors or omissions on this list.